ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

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THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY

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ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020, INDIA

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Presidential Address

To the 144th Convention of the Theosophical Society (TS)
Varanasi, 31 December 2019

WELCOME all to the 144th Convention of the Theosophical Society, this time being held, after a 30-year interval, in the recently renovated national headquarters of the Indian Section of the TS in Varanasi, while Leadbeater Chambers, the Western accommodations building at the TS international headquarters in Adyar, is undergoing its own renovation, as I speak. Now let us please rise for the invocation to the Great Ones who protect the Society with their energy and strength:

May those who are the embodiments of Love Immortal
bless with their help and guidance this Society,
founded to be a channel for their work.
May They inspire it with their Wisdom, strengthen it
with their Power, and energize it with their activity.

I am now pleased to open this 144th Annual Convention of the TS.

This year we gather for the 144th annual International Convention of the Theosophical Society (TS). One of the benefits of our relative longevity is that it affords a vision of a sweep of time — global changes, changes within the Theosophical Society, and the impact of the Ageless Wisdom on both. The relentless changes brought about by natural impulse and the application of human will, reveal a pattern to the observant mind. These patterns are part of a larger cycle. Nature, human and otherwise, is abundant in its production of seed potentials. There are trees that produce millions of seeds each year in order for one or two to find fertile soil, take root, and grow, assuring the future of the species.

In recent times we as a human family have come to the view that we are some special creation, apart from the natural world, and have behaved accordingly, forgetful of the greater life in which we are imbedded. This is a pattern of thought and behavior which has become a characteristic of our time. As members of an organization formed to stem the tide of this current of thought, we need to consider this moment carefully.

The current of "brutal materialism" and "degrading superstition" which the TS was intended to address, has grown and taken on a variety of threatening forms since the TS's founding. What has been the impact of the work we have done in the world? What has been the impact of the world on

our work? We cannot afford to lose sight of the fact that the the relationship between "the world" and ourselves is reciprocal. If we are not vigilant in our awareness, our surroundings affect us powerfully, mainly because we are unconscious of its pervasive influence through culture, social norms, and education. The idea was well expressed by J. Krishnamurti when he said: "We are the world."

It is the nature of seeds that those which are nurtured grow more prolifically. The first line in the *Dhammapada* quotes the Buddha as saying: "All that we are is the result of our thoughts." Having spent countless lives feeding the seed of a separate, independent identity, we find ourselves inheriting the world shaped from that current of thought. At this point there is a dawning clarity that this collective creation is both unsustainable and unsatisfactory. From the theosophical point of view, it is also clear that the Ageless Wisdom tradition can move us toward an experience of a dramatically different inner potential capable of invoking a brighter future.

In our brief time together let us pay attention. Let us hear beyond the inadequate words we share. Let us look and see in each other and ourselves the seed of an unfolding divinity. Let us commit to nurture that seed regardless of appearances.

* * *

In the **Indo-Pacific** region, the highlight of this year was the much-needed and long-awaited restoration of **Blavatsky Bungalow** in the Adyar Campus in Chennai, India. The refurbished building was inaugurated by me on the evening of 1 January 2019. After two years of meticulous work done with painstaking attention by a group specialized in renovating historical buildings, it was open again to students.

The **Indian** Section has 10,703 members as of September 2019 (a net drop of 441 over last year), distributed over 486 Lodges and Centres under 16 Federations. Its website <theosophy-india.org> was recently upgraded and provides basic information about Theosophy and recent events in the Section. A recent Internet-based system has helped in efficiently managing membership, financial data, and so on. The Indian Section's 127th convention was inaugurated at Adyar by me on 1 January 2019. It was chaired by international Vice-President Dr Deepa Padhi. Pradeep Gohil, president of the Section, welcomed the delegates and delivered the state of the Section address. The second part of the convention was chaired by Yogendra Desai, with talks by Shikhar Agnihotri, S. U. Mahesh, N. C. Krishna, S. P. Malini, and Dr M. A. Raveendran. In order to motivate Federations and Lodges to propagate Theosophy, a unique goal-setting meeting of Federation leaders was organized on 6–7 October 2018 at Bhowali, attended by my wife Lily and me. Progress was continu-

ously tracked and reported every month. The Section was able to achieve 90% of the planned goals by the end of the year. The Rohit Mehta Bhavan hostel was built in record time with a capacity of 146 students. A 100-kW solar power generator was installed resulting in significant electrical power savings. It is expected to break even in 5 years. Other buildings were revamped too with the help of the city authorities, and all these helped to accommodate the delegates to the TS International Convention 2019–20, being hosted by the Indian Section after a gap of 30 years. Shifting the Convention location this year is also enabling the Leadbeater Chambers building in Adyar to be upgraded.

The National Study Camp on self-transformation led by Vicente (Vic) Hao Chin, Jr, was held at Varanasi during 23–25 November 2018 with an attendance of 105. An international workshop on teachers' training was attended by about 140 delegates from all over India. Ven. M. Mehoankara Thero of Sri Lanka and Vic were the faculty. The 96th Easter Theosophical Conference on "The Real Purpose of the Theosophical Society" was held from 19 to 21 April 2019 in the recently renovated Blavatsky Bungalow in Adyar under the auspices of the Kerala Theosophical Federation. International Treasurer Nancy Secrest inaugurated the conference and I presided. About 124 delegates from various Federations attended. Study camps were conducted by the Telugu, Kerala, Marathi, Karnataka, Gujarat, Bombay, Utkal, Assam, Bengal, Bihar, UP, MP/Rajasthan, Tamil, and Rayalaseema Federations at the Bhowali Himalayan Study Centre, from March through September 2019 on a variety of theosophical topics. Other study camps and classes were conducted by various Federations around the country. Also the National Lecturers conducted visits and talks at various locations during the year.

National President Gohil was invited to address the Belgian Section in Brussels where he spoke on "The Source of Spiritual Energy" on 26 June 2019. He also visited Naarden to attend the General Council and Strategic Planning Meeting last summer. An initiative was taken to propagate Theosophy amongst students by introducing theosophical and moral values among students and exposing them to the aims and objectives of the TS. A 6-month certificate course was designed on "Self-realization through Theosophy" in October. The TOS annual camp was held in Bhowali during 11–13 June 2019. TOS International and the Indian Section jointly contributed towards flood relief and cyclone relief during the year.

The National President of **Australia**, Linda Oliveira highlighted the visit of Lily and me in May. She has further indicated the certification of the new group at Logan in Queensland. They had a successful National Convention held in Sydney on the theme "Divine Wisdom in Theory and Practice". They had a large number of activities throughout the year, including the completion of a new website available to all Lodges and Branches.

It is heartening to know that **New**

Zealand's effort in creating greater visibility by strategic efforts has paid dividends in attracting the attention of members. All programmes are developed on the basis of language understandable to the present generation; highlighting the usefulness of Theosophy as a practical tool for providing content and imparting wisdom on the way of life. During the year under report two interesting seminars were organized, namely "The Process of Self-transformation" and "The Rainbow Bridge — Searching for the Divine Within" directed by international speaker Dorothy Bell. The programme of developing online introductory study courses exploring Theosophy continued. The videos will be available shortly. It is a pleasure to see the results of strategic planning and the growing attraction of the younger people to modern theosophical explorations in New Zealand.

The **South-East Asia** Presidential Agency has 504 members and consists of four countries: Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Singapore, with an active lodge in each country. The **Singapore** Lodge is the largest, with 333 members. Other than weekly meetings and study classes, the highlight of the year was "The Self-Transformation Seminar" by Vicente Hao Chin, Jr, in October. The team developing the Chinese website <chinesetheosophy.net> and translating theosophical literature into Chinese is based here. The Selangor Lodge in **Malaysia** has 97 members and conducts regular reading sessions and theosophical talks by guest speakers. Their library is open twice a week for the members' use. **Japan** has the 37-member Nippon Lodge which holds monthly study meetings, creates videos of lectures, translates theosophical books into Japanese, and publishes a monthly magazine, *Theosophia*. The Olcott Lodge of **Myanmar** has 37 members and has been granted a temporary registration certificate from the Home Affairs Ministry. The TOS conducted dental hygiene awareness campaigns. Three books were translated to the local language. In addition to weekly meetings, meditation sessions are also done. The common website for the region is <theosophyasia.net>.

The **Bangladesh** Presidential Agency has 65 members. Blavatsky Lodge observed Foundation Day and organized regular study classes on Theosophy. The proposed Annie Besant Lodge was also active. The historic building of Comilla Lodge was locked by local municipal authorities due to legal issues, and the matter is being pursued for a resolution.

The **Philippines** has 21 Lodges, one of which is new, namely "Hearts" in Davao City, chartered on 11 February 2019. There were 16 new members in the Section.

In **the Americas**, the Theosophical Society in **America** (TSA) continued their active and comprehensive activities during the year including outreach to the general public. During the past year, two additional centers were certified and a 12-month course on "Death and the Afterlife" was designed and mailed to 516 members. It is a matter of pride that the Henry S. Olcott National Library continues to

provide quality facilities. Digitization of film, slides and historic documents continued as a major activity with personalized service. Throughout the year, high-quality study, meditation, service, and public participation continued with success. Apart from workshops, online interactive webinar programs were organized. Large participation is witnessed in online programs like "Walking the Theosophical Path" and "Mahatma Letters Reading and Discussion Group" conducted by Pablo Sender. Online classes are also offered such as Ravi Ravindra's course on "Learning to Live by Dying Daily".

The Theosophical Publishing House is providing audio books. The entire collection of different journals can be accessed online by all interested; similarly, the Internet seminars. The IT department extends its services to all departments to upgrade their activities. There are almost 48,000 subscribers to the TSA YouTube channel. Ever since the Olcott Library joined SWAN (System-Wide Automated Network), a library consortium in Northern Illinois with a potential patronage of over three million people, their circulation of requested items showed an increase of over 700%. Library membership has gone up by 21%. This year the Quest Bookshop at the national center is celebrating its 50th anniversary and for that over 4,000 customers are contacted for special events, featured items, and seasonal sales.

The annual convention in **Cuba** was organized in January on the theme "Seeking a Path", which included lectures on "Kriya Yoga", "Three Paths of Perfection", and study of the book *At the Feet of the Master*. It is interesting that the Section also organized a theosophical Summer School under the banner "Theosophical Research, Theosophical Authors and Meditation". This event was attended by members from Costa Rica, Spain, the US (Hialeah and Ojai), and the Presidential Representative for Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. This approach needs to be encouraged. The Cuban theosophical magazine was available quarterly online. The studies in the Lodges cover a wide spectrum of themes relating to Christianity, Man, God, the Universe, the Science of Yoga, J. Krishnamurti, and so on. The Havana center hosts the study of H. P. Blavatsky's (HPB) *The Secret Doctrine*. Three courses were held for new members.

The General Secretary of the **Argentinean** Section, Esteban Langlois, reports that in November, together with the White Lotus Branch, a national conference was organized with the theme "The Mission of the Theosophical Society and the Purpose of Its Members", at Horco Molle, a few kilometers from the city, with the peacefulness of Nature. A Luso-Hispanic seminar was organized in collaboration with the Inter-American Federation and had Pablo Sender as the main speaker. An introductory course was started through the Internet, a team was formed and a sixteen-week course was presented covering the main teachings of esoteric philosophy. A next-level course for those who subscribed to the introductory course is in the making.

The **Mexican** Section celebrated its centenary with the visit of Isis M. B. Resende, President of the Inter-American Theosophical Federation, who visited branches and study centers and spoke and interacted with members and the public in general. Dr Isaac Jauli and Dr Enrique Reig also took part in the celebrations, where they gave a workshop on "Coaching without Coach" in the cities of Guadalajara and Poza Rica.

In **Puerto Rico** members meet regularly. On 22 and 23 September they welcomed Gaspar Torres, a senior resident member of the Krotona Institute in California. He conducted a two-day seminar on "Spiritual Development and Managing Emotions". From 30 October to 2 November Enrique Reig and Isaac Jauli came from Mexico and Spain respectively to give a two-day workshop, "Living the Truth of Our Soul: The Coherence in Our Personal Lives". Two public lectures were also given, "Intuitive Intelligence" and "Which is Our Destiny?"

In **Chile,** Lodges continued to meet weekly to study Theosophy and related subjects. The Department of Education organized public meetings and workshops for members and collaborated with the work of Andean Conferences in Mendoza, Argentina, last October.

Both the HPB and Verdad Lodges in **Peru** were active in organizing public talks offered free on the Internet, as courses on Theosophy. Activities have been varied and covered a wide spectrum of subjects. Sonia Obando was elected President of Lodge HPB while Rosa Atahualpa was elected President of Lodge Verdad for 2019–20. On 1 June 2019 Lodge HPB celebrated the 95th anniversary of the foundation of the TS in Peru, which coincides with the foundation of this Lodge.

The Blavatsky and Fraternity Lodges in **Venezuela** met regularly during the year. In addition to celebrating the important dates, in-depth study of books like *Pillars of Spiritual Life*, *A Yoga of Light*, and *Tolerance* were organized, which were well received by the members. In each Lodge there is half an hour of meditation for peace.

As reported by Maryse DeCoste, Organizing Secretary, **Canadian** Theosophical Association, the duties of the directors were streamlined to make the Association and its activities more effective. It has been extremely busy in organizing numerous holistic programs. The national convention and conference were held in Vancouver in August on "The Three Objects of Theosophy in the 21st Century". This was very well attended, including by non-members. The Parliment of the World Religions was held in Toronto in November 2018, where representatives of both Toronto's York Lodge and Vancouver's Blavatsky Lodge were in attendance. Another important activity was the get-together of the Quebec School of the Wisdom in Magog in August on "The Powers Latent in Man". Although there has been a decline in membership of 10% overall, there has been growth in Quebec, Manitoba, and BC. On the whole the year was well planned and the activities held regularly.

Despite some local problems, the Theosophical Society of **Costa Rica** continued with their enthusiastic activities in conducting study classes, celebration of the important days by Virya, Shakti, Dharma, and HPB Lodges. There are two lodges and a study center with a total of 8 active members.

The new Organizing Secretary for **Central America** is Beatriz Elisena Martinez Pozas. I had visited her during the month of May 2018.

In the **African region**, the **East and Central African** Section is comprised of four countries: Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia. The highlight of this year was the year-long centenary celebrations of the Nairobi Lodge in **Kenya** with several indoor programs like lectures, and outdoor activities like the planting of 250 trees at "Moi Forces Academy" in May 2018. Ananya Sri Ram Rajan was invited to conduct a weekend seminar on "Towards a Just World" on 15–16 September 2018. A special feature is the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis undertaken to extend the presence of Nairobi Lodge by further activating the members and attracting new members. Narendra M. Shah was once again elected as the General Secretary of the Section of the TS for a two-year term. The election was also conducted for four Assistant Secretaries for the regions. Both Nairobi Lodge and Dar es Salaam Lodge are active in humanitarian activities, such as providing food to orphans, and school and college fees to deserving students. The Nile Lodge of **Uganda** has met on scheduled days and studied theosophical books. Kitwe Lodge in **Zambia** is fortunate to have their own building. They held their regular study meetings with good attendance, and have been making efforts to enlist new members. The Sara Rose Orphanage has been the focal point of the Zambia TOS. The Section is in the process of revising their Constitution.

In **Europe** the **Italian** Section, with 26 groups and 18 centers, continued their "members only" meetings and public conferences, which were very well received. The 105th Italian National Congress took place in Cavallino-Treporti, from 30 May to 2 June with the theme "Consciousness and Awareness in the Light of Theosophy". For the first time the Section held a silent retreat conducted by Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu from 27 to 29 September in a peaceful and natural environment in "Miri Piri" in Travo. Antonio Girardi was reelected as General Secretary of the Section for a period of three years from July 2019.

It is heartening to note that on 30 September 2018, the transition from "association" to "charity" status was finalized and the Charter handed over to the new TS **England** (TSE) Charity. While the regular activities continued the main activities of the Section were the North-West Federation Weekend Conference in May with the theme "Esoteric Teachings: A Path to Wisdom" and the week-long Summer School in August on "Reality, Illusion, and Life". Both events were productive and the participation was large and encouraging for all. At the TSE

Headquarters several international speakers including Isis Resende from Brazil and Kurt Leland from America were hosted to give lectures on important and interesting topics. Some of the important theosophical books were studied this year. Courses were offered on sacred geometry, *The Yoga-Vāsishtha*, *Sermons of Meister Eckhart*, Vedic astrology, after-death states, and meditation. The 24 Lodges and centres continued their activities in reaching out to the wider community. Many of the Lodges concentrated their studies on the Three Objects of the Society. Training courses for new speakers have been introduced. The diploma course on Theosophy has been well received. It is good news that a higher diploma course has been introduced this year. These courses have attracted around 150 students. The merger of the Welsh region with TSE is progressing well. They are producing a bi-annual magazine, *Esoterica*, which is widely distributed to members and the public. The national President releases a bi-monthly newsletter particularly in order to be in touch with the members independent of groups.

The activities of TS **Finland** covered many special programmes of immense interest on important theosophical themes. A silent retreat was held in Kreivila in August. The annual convention of the Finnish Section was held in Oulu on 27 April. The important function of the year was the Summer School in Kreivila during 7–11 June. The course with the theme "The Foundation of Theosophy" was conducted by Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu from France. On White Lotus Day, the special guest was Tim Wyatt from England who spoke on "The Extinction Myth". The Lodges are active providing courses in basic Theosophy and related subjects using different study methods. It is interesting that TS organized two big fairs in Southern Finland selling books and holding interactive sessions. Estonian Lodges also held a winter seminar in January 2019 and *The Secret Doctrine* study classes in May both in Tartu. An autumn study camp in Aegvidu was conducted in August. The Finnish Section has 21 lodges and one study group. Total membership is 345.

It is heartening to note that all the main targets were met by the **French** Section during the year, in terms of meditation meetings, silent retreats, improving Internet presence, et al. Unfortunately, the activities in Paris, though they continued steadily, were adversely impacted due to social unrest and hacking of the website. A new website has now been set up. The Lodge meetings, discussing important topics, were held monthly. Courses were held once in two weeks, free of cost. Silent retreats for only members were also held as planned, attracting many new members. A regular meditation group was formed early this year and continued to meet every two weeks. Outside of Paris, theosophical activities were organized regularly. Lodges in Marseille, Orleans, Toulouse, and Brittany were regular and active. The National Convention was held in Paris on 22–23 June 2019 on "Animal to Human Evolution of Consciousness". The programme included a public lecture, sym-

posium, and discussion on the theme. The magazine *Le Lotus Bleu* was published ten times during the year.

The 12th edition of the silent retreat that takes place annually in **Spain**, conducted by the President of the European Federation of the TS, Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu, took place in Arbuceis, near Barcelona from 1 to 4 November. The theme was "Exploring the Different States of Consciousness after Death". The 41st edition of the Iberian Days function, was organized by the Portuguese Section at the Seminario de Aguilha, in Sao Domingo de Rana, near Lisbon. The Section's summer school took place from 25 to 30 August in Sant Feliu de Guixols (Costa Brava), with Vicente Hao Chin, Jr, as the guest speaker, on the topic "Self-Mastery, Meditation, and the Spiritual Life".

The **Swedish** Section continued their praiseworthy efforts by bringing out their magazine, organizing interesting lectures like "Tibet in my Heart", "Do we have a Free Will?" and so on. Study groups, workshops and dialogue groups were held throughout the year. A summer school was organized in the Archipelago not far away from Stockholm. The theme was "Thought, Word, and Action". Most of the programmes are open to non-members. The bookshop has a rich collection of new and old books and is a centre of togetherness. An activity of the TOS in Sweden is the support extended to school children in Goa, India.

The TS in Netherlands maintains a close and brotherly cooperation with the Inter-national Theosophical Center (ITC) at Naarden which has been active through the year. It hosted the international strategic planning meeting inspiring a new project "The TS Netherlands in Changing Times", which aims to bring the TS fully into the 21st century.

The members of the TS in **Portugal** have remained fully active holding public lectures, panels and group discussions through the year. Maria Jose Barrios, from Spain visited Lisbon and Porto where she delivered a public talk on "Creativity: Welcoming Our Potential", in both cities the talks were well attended. In April the Portuguese Section hosted the Iberian Days with the theme "From the Unreal to the Real: Illusion, Truth, Discernment".

The charter of the Theosophical Society in **Ukraine** (TSU) was granted on 12 August 2019, raising its status to a National Section. Its rules and regulations were ratified by the General Asembly in Ukraine on 2 July 2019. The 16th TSU Convention in November 2018 was devoted to celebrating the 143rd anniversary of the TS. In May 2019, a seminar was held on the topic "The Process of Self-Transformation: Research of the Higher Potential for Effective Life". In the year under report, the summer school on "The Power of Unity" was held in Pavlynka, Odesa at the HPB Cultural Center. The website started in 2017 has been rendering substantial services to all interested people. The scientific group of the TS in Ukraine held two very interesting sessions. A key event was the Scientific Interdisciplinary Conference on "Spiritual Aspects of Mod-

ern Attitude" with international participation. The exhibition "Inexhaustible Source" dedicated to HPB continued to be exhibited around the country under the banner of TOS.

The main event which was largely attended was the German Summer School held in July 2019 at Bad Zwesten in the centre of **Germany**, on the topic "Living Theosophy in the 21st century". The guest speaker from France, Jacques Mahnich held nine lectures, a workshop and meditation seminar. His focus was on tackling problems of today's world. Other highlights were a music session and a presentation on Sulamith Wulfing. To encourage and enrich the members, copies of the book *O Lanoo* were distributed free to the members. A new study group has been set up in Kronberg, near Frankfurt.

Apart from the regular annual programmes in **Greece**, two important international conferences were held in October 2019 at Athens on the "History of Theosophy" and at Eretna "European School of Theosophy". The quarterly magazine has been regularly published. Important books of Annie Besant and C. W. Leadbeater were translated and published in Greek language. The seven Lodges in Athens and one in Crete have been vibrant with interesting discussions on important theosophical publications.

The **Icelandic** Section held their summer school near Reykjavik on the theme "Life is One". They have regular biweekly public meetings with an attendance of 30 to 60 persons. Their journal *Gangleri* is published annually with a Roerich painting on its cover. They have a good library and bookshop. A triennial newsletter is also published. There are 7 active Lodges.

The **Russian** Presidential Agency has 135 members spread over 9 Branches. They have study meetings weekly, public meetings twice a month and monthly online discussions whose videos are published on the Internet. The annual All-Russian Theosophical Conference took place from 23 to 24 March 2019 in Kemerovo. The annual summer theosophical seminar was dedicated to the study of *The Secret Doctrine*. Some books were reprinted and some new translations were published.

The 14th All **Ireland** Convention was held on 25 May 2019. The guest speaker Bernice Croft gave an inspiring address on the theme, "Mysticism of Theosophy". The centenary celebration of Theosophical Society in Ireland, coinciding with the 10th year of existence of Phoenix Lodge was celebrated with a lot of enthusiasm. A large number of enquiries are received on their website which is encouraging.

Despite logistic difficulties, the Lodges in Budapest, **Hungary,** functioned. The lectures were recorded and made available to the public, which were received with a lot of enthusiasm. During the year under report, the public lecture series on Hungarian Prananadi group were continued. The last part of *The Secret Doctrine* was published and there is a plan to print *The Key to Theosophy*. The Presidential Representative participated in the EFTS council meeting in August 2019 in Brussels, Belgium.

In June 2018, the **Norwegian** Region-

al Association took positive steps to set up an interim board which would, in turn, help out in establishing a democratically elected and functional board to take forward its activities. Of the two local groups only the one at Strommen is functioning. Hopefully steps will be taken to revive the other in Moss. Lodge Dharma has been reawakened and regular activities initiated. It will open for general participation after the initial members receive training and (theosophical) education.

Apart from the regular annual activities, **Swiss** groups and Lodges continued on their regular structured programmes. The Swiss and European Theosophical Seminar was organized on "Beauty, Wisdom, Harmony in Spiritual Research" which was well attended. In order to help the members, the Lugano Group has been separated from the Ascona Group. The Zurich Group, under the leadership of Frank Henkel was very active with positive approach and created a website and a press release. It is heartening to note that the French-speaking activities provided by Geneva have been posted in their website and are available free. Andrea and Greta Biaska-Caroni continue to manage the non-profit Association "The Luigi Pericle Archive".

There are three Lodges with 62 members in **Austria**. They provide weekly lectures during the whole year. In October 2018, some of the members attended the annual meet of the European School of Theosophy in Florence, Italy. The theme of the week-long lectures was "Memento Mori — World Views of Death and Dying". The annual meeting of the Austrian Association was held at Linz Lodge in March 2019.

The **Welsh** Region was founded in 1922. It had 63 members as of September 2019. The report of the TS in Wales has been filed by the former Regional Secretary, Julie Cunningham. It is likely that most of the Welsh members will be shifted to TS in England next year based on the request to include their membership in the English Section after a possible merger. Some study meetings and public talks were held at different places.

Covenant Lodge, Israel, in Tel Aviv, reports that a monthly public lecture continues to be held throughout the year. Two weekend and three one-day seminars were organized and proved to be a good channel for study. Five study groups are active and meet twice monthly. YouTube has been explored to upload 45 films on theosophical subjects for public use.

Members of the **Blavatsky Lodge** in **Slovenia**, meet regularly twice a week and are studying the law of karma and *The Voice of the Silence*. Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu, Chairman of the European Federation visited on 27 October 2018 and attended a seminar in Celje on "Discerning True Spirituality from the Occult" with 30 participants. On 27 November the Lodge organized the first public lecture by Francek Dobovisek on "Theosophy and the TS" with 23 in attendance.

The **Ananda** and **Arc en Ciel Lodges** in Marseilles, **France**, report that a three-Saturday seminar was held in Marseilles with Jacques Mahnich conducting the

first Saturday on "Theosophy, the Remedy for a Sick World", "The Path of Hero" done by Myriam Philibert on the second, and Cecile Giuliani speaking on the third.

At the **International Headquarters**, renovation work started on the **Leadbeater Chambers** and is expected to be completed by September/October 2020. The **Archives and Museum** department is being shifted to the newly built extension to the Adyar Library building and will be named "Surendra Narayan Archives". During the year, 20 research scholars used the facilities, either in person or requesting scanned materials by electronic media. During the international Convention, archival exhibitions on "The Mahatma Letters" and "Prominent People Associated with the Theosophical Movement" were inaugurated by me on the first day of the Convention. The Archives team consisting of V. Vedavathi, Mohan Mani and Jaishree Kannan was supported by Bernd Jesse, whose contribution as a volunteer was very much appreciated.

In 1886 Col. H. S. Olcott established the reputed **Adyar Library and Research Centre (ALRC)**. T. Narayanan Kutty is the Director and C. A. Shinde the chief Librarian, with 14 supporting staff. In January, on behalf of the Society, I signed an important co-operation agreement with Sree Sankara University in Kerala for joint publication of books, and for research scholars to better utilize the contents of the ALRC and revive Sanskrit. A new system was introduced for the arrangement of the books considering the Library's closed nature and to facilitate space for the Archives. The changes took about two months. Digitization and automation activities continued to progress; catalogue digitization has been completed.

The School of the Wisdom conducted four courses during the year. Pablo Sender gave a comprehensive presentation of H. P. Blavatsky's teachings, both philosophical as well as practical, with his course "Higher Consciousness — Its Nature and Awakening" in November 2018. In December, Jacques Mahnich offered "Living Theosophy in the 21st Century", emphasizing the role of the timeless wisdom as the guiding light of our lives in a science-and-technology-centered world. In "Meditation in the Light of Theosophy" conducted in January, Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu guided students in the practice of Madame Blavatsky's "Meditation Diagram" for a much-needed transformation of awareness.

The **Olcott Education Society** (OES) runs the **Olcott Memorial Higher Secondary School**, which has been giving importance to the academic as well as co-curricular activities such as sports, cultural events, social issues, educational tours, and so on, for the overall development of the students. Speaking in English is emphasized as a tool for global communication. Upgrade of teacher skills is also given equal importance. The **HPB Hostel** is also run by OES with a resident warden and eight boys staying. OES's **Vocational Training Centre** has 3 teachers, and 24 students undergoing free training in tailoring, weaving, embroidery, and other crafts. The **Social Welfare**

Centre looks after 46 young children with food and play activities. Parents are also involved during social and national celebrations.

The Theosophical Order of Service exists in 36 of the 59 countries where the Theosophical Society is active. The e-newsletter and the rich website provide the latest relevant information. The Facebook page also provides interesting posts. Though TOS activities are different from country to country, the common strands are women's issues, theosophical education, and encouragement of youth involvement in TS and TOS. Nancy Secrest, TOS International Secretary, visited many TS/TOS groups in India this year. She also gave a presentation of TOS activities around the world to the International Theosophical Conference (ITC) in July. Several TOS groups are active in animal welfare and providing humanitarian help. Many groups confine themselves to healing, while some practise peace meditation regularly. Flood relief efforts in India were also supported this year, in addition to the recovery efforts in Bhubaneswar after Fani, a devastating cyclone. The members were personally involved. The work that TOS groups are carrying out across the world testifies to Annie Besant's foresight in putting the First Object of the Theosophical Society into action, and it follows HPB's teachings that theosophists should live a life of altruism.

The long-felt need of having schools with a theosophical educational approach was fulfilled this year by the formation of the **Adyar Theosophical Academy (ATA)**, which commenced on 24 June 2019 with 21 students and 8 staff within the campus of the International Headquarters of the Theosophical Society (TS), in the building formerly used by the Theosophical Publishing House and repurposed to house the new school. ATA is run by the Theosophical Education Society (TES), formed on 9 April 2019 with the four International Officers of the TS as its exofficio members. I visited the school on 8 October and planted a Bodhi tree sapling to denote wisdom. Then I addressed the parents and invitees gathered there and spoke of my shared vision for the school and what it embodies, which endeavours to create an atmosphere that invites the deeper aspect of a human being in its complete expression.

ATA draws upon its motto of "Learning and Growing through Transformative Education". Led by Vicente Hao Chin, Jr, Director of the Golden Links Institute in the Philippines and former National President of the TS in the Philippines, ATA aims to prepare students for life in all its dimensions, imparting wholesome education in its true sense. The school currently has 5 classes and 48 students from Pre-school to Grade II and aims to expand every year by one grade until Grade XII. Each class strength is limited to 20 students with a high teacher-student ratio to impart quality education.

Three new classrooms will be constructed by April 2020. The campus has beautiful trees, some being quite old, including a clump of Jamun trees (Indian

blueberry), and is flanked by two banyan trees. The Besant Gardens grounds that surround ATA serve as an inspiration and initiation into science and discovery through Nature. Students have also gone for many field trips for practical learning. These include a museum, the post office, a zoo, a planetarium, and the Guindy National Park.

Like-minded teachers and students were drawn to the school as it started taking shape. Most staff have some old connections with the TS which have been renewed and likewise with some of the parents. We have a devoted TS member volunteer from Colombia and look forward to more members joining from other countries. School of the Wisdom Directors, TS members visiting Adyar, as well as guests have come and interacted with staff and students on various occasions. The Academy Director, Sonal Murali, worked at the TS Adyar from 1983 to 1997, and has explored alternative education based on J. Krishnamurti's educational philosophy for a decade.

ATA has a website and social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram. There is an information page on the TS Adyar website under "Explore" that has a link to the ATA website. Targeted Facebook and Google advertisements are placed from time to time for a wider reach. Admissions are open for next year.

May you have a fruitful and inspiring experience during our Convention.

TIM BOYD

THE TREASURER'S REPORT
AND
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2019

TREASURER'S REPORT — AUDITED ACCOUNTS 2018–2019

Respected members of the General Council:

The audited financial statements of the accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 March 2019 are already in your hands. Please find hereunder the salient points of income and expenditure of the Society for the fiscal year 2018–2019.

1. INCOME

The details of the income for the year ended 31 March 2019 as compared to the previous two years are as follows:

	Financial Year		
	2018–2019	**2017–2018**	**2016–2017**
a) Gross interest received from investments	23,007,802	26,090,897	26,228,841
b) Fees and dues	2,000,875	2,683,884	3,294,686
c) License fees	200,000	1,210,000	2,900,000
d) Adyar Day donations	213,778	196,627	208,954
e) General donations	674,741	468,966	1,681,390
f) Surplus from Publishing House	1,030,873	382,513	—
Sub Total – gross income	27,128,069	31,032,887	34,313,871
Less: Interest transferred to earmarked funds	(10,569,989)	(12,042,687)	(11,647,904)
Total Income	**16,558,080**	**18,990,200**	**22,665,967**

The gross income for the year as shown above decreased from the previous year by Rs. 24 lakhs. Income from interest on investments has decreased by Rs. 30 lakhs. This is mostly due to the usage of some investments for their donated purposes, specifically renovations, which reduced the total amount invested. License fees decreased by Rs. 10 lakhs. The amount shown is for the last two months' rent of the Damodar Gardens property by the KFI. We will see no further income from License fees until we begin receiving "rent" from the Damodar Gardens property and/or from the Adyar Theosophical Academy, both of which are pending. Adyar Day donations improved slightly this year while Fees and dues declined. TPH sales appear to be tripled from last year's surplus and the deficit of the year before, 2016–17. This is misleading as some sales from 2017–2018 were not posted until April 2018 thereby showing increased sales in 2018–19. Also, most sales this year were of older books with the corresponding Cost of Goods Sold being of a lesser amount than currently printed books. General donations increased by Rs. 2.06 lakhs. There were also substantial receipts of Rs. 94.6 lakhs to the Adyar renovation fund and Rs. 10.9 lakhs to the

animal welfare fund. New donations "funds" were created this year for the Adyar Theosophical Academy (ATA), Rs. 25.3 lakhs. These funds were used to construct a new toilet wing at the school and to offset some start-up costs. Funds were also received for the new Lily Boyd OES fund, Rs. 2.2 lakhs. Amounts donated to this fund are used for various improvement projects at the Social Welfare Center, the Vocational Training Center, the HPB Boys' Hostel and the Olcott Memorial Higher Secondary School. While both the TES (Theosophical Education Society), under which the ATA operates, and the OES (Olcott Education Society) are separate entities from the TS, the property they utilize belongs to the TS with its maintenance and improvements being the responsibility of the TS. These new funds will help to offset those costs. The generosity of our donors is much appreciated. The final work on Blavatsky Bungalow utilized Rs. 215.2 lakhs of our Adyar renovation funds this year, and increased our fixed assets.

2. EXPENDITURE

The net results under different major heads after taking credit for the interest appropriated from the respective funds and the funds utilized during the year as compared to those of the previous two years were as under:

	Financial Year		
Nature of expenditure	**2018–2019**	**2017–2018**	**2016–2017**
a) Departments	17,885,956	18,664,775	13,096,664
b) Charitable work	511,470	444,873	795,862
c) Propagation of Theosophy	1,601,202	1,698,560	1,896,939
d) International offices	3,085,279	2,269,698	2,136,249
e) Establishment	7,566,331	5,425,621	5,721,100
f) Other expense	5,459,965	2,205,848	3,566,439
Totals	36,110,203	30,709,375	27,213,253

The gross functional results of each major head are explained hereunder:

2 (a) Departments

	2018–2019	**2017–2018**	**2016–2017**
i) Bhojanasala & Leadbeater Chambers	479,783	176,442	692,570
ii) Garden	2,553,464	2,682,778	1,680,566
iii) Maintenance	15,132,709	16,879,555	12,173,528
Totals	18,165,956	19,738,775	14,546,664

The operations of Bhojanasala and Leadbeater Chambers resulted in a deficit increase

this year. This is due almost entirely to a decrease in boarding income of Rs. 211,658. Boarding income in the previous year, 2017–2018, included rental by several outside groups at various times. In the year 2018–2019 this did not occur and some workers living at LBC were transferred to other of our residential properties in anticipation of the pending renovation of LBC. All other items remained stable.

In the Garden department,income from gross returns on cultivation increased by Rs. 2.4 lakhs while miscellaneous income decreased by Rs. 4.2 lakhs for a net decrease in income of Rs. 1.78 lakhs. The miscellaneous income in the prior year was mostly due to the sale of "junglewood" for Rs. 3.6 lakhs. The "junglewood" came from trees that had been felled by the cyclone a couple of years ago. In the process of clearing the TS property of the debris, the garden department cut up and offered the wood for sale. On the expense side our use of contract labor (called General Maintenance in the financial statements) decreased by Rs. 3.77 lakhs of contract labor that was used for preparing the "junglewood" last year.

The Maintenance department income increased slightly from last year, 2017–18 while expenses decreased Rs. 20.0 lakhs. This is largely due to a decrease in the building maintenance necessary to prepare for the annual convention offset by an increase in charges for electricity.

2 (b) Charitable Work

	2018–2019	2017–2018	2016–2017
i)Animal Welfare (including Dispensary)	817,584	595,709	1,363,180
ii) Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary	2,855,514	1,651,421	—
iii) Education	840,740	2,312,608	1,934,375
iv) Welfare Grants	674,637	431,229	557,031
v) Free Dispensary & Medical Aid	265,940	234,142	309,904
vi) School fees & books	153,000	181,000	213,000
vii) Social Welfare	140,039	1,393,579	140,264
viii) Others	194,350	11,910	11,681
ix) Cyclone Relief	94,566	310,000	182,267
x)Theosophical Order of Service	620,647	136,540	60,000
Totals	6,657,017	7,258,138	4,771,702

Donations restricted to the above usages are kept in invested "Funds" until needed to cover expenses. A total of Rs. 61.46 lakhs was utilized this year toward the above expenses resulting in actual costs to the TS general fund of only Rs. 5.1 lakhs. The Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary (BMAD) continued increasing its donations this year, and completely covered its expenses again this year. The "funds" also completely covered the expenses of

Animal Welfare, Adyar Nature and Environment Centre, Education, the Social Welfare Work, Cyclone Relief and the Theosophical Order of Service (TOS). While not a department of the TS some funds had been donated to the TOS in the past few years through the TS and have been used toward specific TOS programs. The same is true of the Adyar Nature and Environment Centre.

2 (c) Propagation of Theosophy

	2018–2019	2017–2018	2016–2017
i) Adyar Library & Research Centre	1,946,305	2,642,523	1,677,720
ii) Theosophical Publishing House	—	—	29,801
iii) The Theosophist & Adyar Newsletter	506,483	632,587	518,054
iv) Archives & Museum	261,185	443,769	417,016
v) Theosophy Science Centre	3,100	516	—
vi) Vasanta Press	709,057	566,433	652,691
vii) School of the Wisdom	128,287	345,255	280,641
viii) Book Gifts	95,437	7,923	198,324
ix) Convention & Seminars	902,171	1,842,877	1,953,281
x) Others	—	—	1,657
xi) Adyar Theosophical Academy	384,394	—	—
Totals	4,936,419	6,481,883	5,729,185

2 (c) (i) Adyar Library & Research Centre	2018–2019	2017–2018	2016–2017
i) Books publication — loss incurred	336,366	955,648	285,800
ii) Deficit for the year	1,946,305	2,642,523	1,677,720
iii) Income from Juhu property (3 years)	—	—	188,081

The above three factors are given separately for the information of the members from the accounts of the Adyar Library. The stock of publications decreased this year due to increased sales of the journal plus the free distribution. The decrease in the deficit for the year of Rs. 6.9 lakhs is explained by the increase of Rs. 6.2 lakhs in sales offset by an increase in salaries. The net deficit of the ALRC was completely covered again this year by previously donated "funds".

2 (c) (ii) The Theosophical Publishing House	2018-2019	2017-2018	2016-2017
i) Gross profit from sale of publications	2,291,376	1,899,912	1,573,186
ii) Royalty and copyright fees	339,671	97,174	236,138
iii) Profit/(loss) from *Wake Up India & Digest*	(11,989)	(37,250)	99,025
iv) Net surplus of the TPH	1,030,873	382,513	(29,801)
v) Loss from *The Theosophist & Adyar Newsletter*	(506,483)	(632,587)	(518,054)

The results of the different activities of the TPH are shown above. The structure at TPH is in the process of being revised. As of the current fiscal year, 2018–2019, the main accounting functions for TPH have been transferred to the Treasury Department, with TPH staff continuing to maintain their inventory, sales and detailed sub-ledger records. The loss from the publication of *The Theosophist* and the *Adyar Newsletter* continues to increase as the cost of these publications exceeds the price charged for them. The Rs. 2.4 lakhs increase in royalty and copyright fees is a direct result of increased sales, as royalties are paid based on sales.

2 (c) (vi) Vasanta Press:

The deficit in the production account, representing the printing activity of the Press, increased by Rs. 68,887. The net deficit for the year 2018–2019 increased by Rs. 1.4 lakhs due to the above plus increased insurance, stationery and miscellaneous expenses. Approximately half of the deficit of the Press was covered by "funds" previously donated to offset the running of the Press.

2 (c) (viii) Book Gifts:

Most of the usage of the Book Gifts fund comes from the circulation of reprinted books by TPH or the gifting of books at major events. This is entirely covered by previously donated "funds".

2c(xi) Adyar Theosophical Academy:

The new Adyar Theosophical Academy began its operations in June of 2019. Prior to this date some renovations were made to the TPH building which now houses the school. This included the addition of a new toilet wing, outside sinks, restructuring of the outside area at the back of the building into a small amphitheater, repairs to walls, painting and the addition of fencing to protect the children from traffic, as well as some start-up costs. The ATA is now operating under the auspices of the Theosophical Education Society (TES), a separate, registered Society. However, improvements, maintenance and repair of the building and grounds remain the responsibility of the TS as owners of the property.

3. President and Vice President:

The deficit in this administrative department increased by nearly Rs. 600,000 this year due to the cost of a promotional video for Damodar Gardens and other related expenses.

4. ESTABLISHMENT

The administrative expenditures on the establishment of other departments remained stable as compared to the previous two years except for the cost of surveying the entire TS campus at Rs. 475,000 and other land related expenses.

5. Other Expenses:

The total deficit from Other Expenses increased this year by Rs. 32.5 lakhs. The expenses under this category Include items such as: insurance, legal costs, taxes, depreciation and provisions for gratuity and bad debts. The largest increases were in legal expenses Rs. 356,000 (mostly for Damodar Gardens), taxes Rs. 8.67 lakhs (which was a major increase in property taxes), depreciation Rs. 12.5 lakhs (most of which is the 1st year's depreciation of Blavatsky Bungalow) and Provision for Bad Debts Rs. 10.2 lakhs for the final write-off of the cost of the Adyar Theatre roof.

After the collapse of the tensile roof of the Adyar Theatre, it was decided by the Executive Committee to shelve the project. Negotiations with the contractor to take back the materials and reimburse the TS for a portion of our costs were pursued. (Those negotiations subsequently failed). In this context, the Society's statutory auditors estimated the loss at Rs. 12 lakhs. Since the matter was under negotiation and not yet finalized at the end of fiscal 2016–2017, our auditors agreed to a provision for an expected loss of Rs. 6 lakhs during that year and Rs. 6 lakhs in 2017–2018. The actual costs were finally known in 2018–19 and were approximately Rs. 10.0 lakhs greater than the auditors' estimate. Therefore, an additional Rs. 10.0 lakhs was booked this year. This matter is now truly closed.

6. NET DEFICIT

The net expenditures incurred after utilizing part of the income from relevant Endowment and Other Funds amounted to about Rs. 361.1 lakhs resulting in a net deficit of Rs. 195.5 lakhs compared to a deficit of Rs. 117.1 lakhs last year, an increase in the deficit of Rs. 78.4 lakhs. This is due to the combination of a decrease in income of Rs. 24.3 lakhs and an increase in expenditures of Rs.54.0 lakhs. Income decreased in all categories except for a small increase in donations and TPH, where sales showed a marked increase. See the detailed explanation in No. 1 above. The largest increases in expenditures were in Establishment and Other Expenses. See Nos. 4 & 5 above.

7. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Capital additions/improvements totaling Rs.180.2 lakhs were added to Fixed Assets this fiscal year, 2018–2019. The largest of these expenditures, Rs. 162.7 lakhs, was for the completion of the renovation of Blavatsky Bungalow and approximately Rs. 7.6 lakhs for "Work in Progress" on the renovation of Leadbeater Chambers. The total capitalized cost of

Blavatsky Bungalow was Rs. 240.8 lakhs. The renovation projects are being totally financed by donations to the Adyar Renovation Fund. Plant and machinery purchases consisting of computers for the Library, Maintenance department and TPH and surgical equipment for the Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary were also made.

8. FUNDS & INVESTMENTS

Under statute, any shares of companies received by way of donation shall be encashed within one year from the date of receipt. Pursuant to this statute, receipts from the sales of shares of stock in the amount of Rs. 30.8 lakhs were added to the Indian Regeneration Endowment Fund and Rs. 6.9 lakhs was added to the N. Sri Ram Charitable Endowment Fund. The services of the two trustees of the N. Sriram Charitable Trust are appreciated.

The investments of the Society totaled Rs. 313,895,790 at the end of this fiscal year as compared with Rs. 336,045,154 at the end of the 2017–2018 fiscal year. These funds are invested in scheduled banks and financial institutions and government bonds, with a small percentage invested in mutual funds.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

This year as last, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the Theosophical Society as its Treasurer. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think I would be here in this place and in this position and wish to thank the Masters for guiding me to it. I also thank President Tim Boyd and the General Council for the trust they have placed in me, and wish to acknowledge the Executive Committee, the International Secretary, the General Manager and Department Heads for all of their assistance throughout the year. Last but certainly not least, none of this work could possibly have been accomplished without the diligent and capable work of the Treasury staff. I gratefully thank and acknowledge them for their efforts.

Nancy Secrest
International Treasurer

FEES AND DUES RECEIVED

From 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 (in Rupees)

	Name of Section etc.	2017–2018	2018–2019
The Theosophical Society in:	Africa, East and Central	—	630
	Africa, South	—	—
	Africa, Central	—	—
	Africa, West	—	—
	America Central El Salvador	2503	—
	Argentina	111766	76450
	Asia, East and South-East:		
	– Japan	—	—
	– Malaysia	—	—
	– Singapore	—	—
	Australia	259219	236099
	Austria	—	—
	Bangladesh	2580	—
	Belgium	—	72220
	Bolivia	—	57531
	Brazil	—	—
	Canada	23426	25709
	Costa Rica	—	53094
	Chile	—	102860
	Colombia	—	—
	Cuba	—	—
	Dominican Republic	10893	11603
	England	377232	182553
	Finland	99560	129588
	France	—	221513
	Germany	58450	—
	Greece	—	—
	Hungary	12698	—
	Iceland	—	—
	India	145943	165467
	Indonesia	12379	13865
	Italy	165882	170152
	Ireland	12223	13225
	Ivory Coast	—	—

Mexico	36722	46286
Netherlands, The	—	—
New Zealand	310976	—
Norway	—	—
Paraguay	—	—
Pakistan	—	—
Peru	11022	14153
Philippines, The	—	—
Portugal	310976	—
Puerto Rico	19385	22476
Russia	—	24573
Scotland	34695	—
Slovenia	40201	13916
Spain	94216	140719
Sri Lanka	—	—
Sweden	—	—
Switzerland	—	22841
Togo	—	—
Ukraine	5706	5849
Uruguay	25164	21559
USA	614807	—
Venezuela	27858	—
Wales	20074	—
Lodges attached to Adyar:		
Lotus Lodge (Croatia)	10903	14327
EL Sol (Equador)	—	—
Arc en Ciel and Ananda Lodges (France)	25686	27471
Sofia Lodge (Indonesia)	—	4715
Covenant Lodge (Israel)	56711	60053
Fraternidad (Paraguay)	—	—
Blavatsky Lodge (Slovenia)	—	14463
Orlando Lodge (USA)	9424	10746
Blavatsky Lodge (Qatar)	—	—
Fellows-at-large	13882	24169
	2963162	2000875

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,
BALANCE SHEET AS

As at 31-3-2018	LIABILITIES	Schedule No.	As at 31-3-2019	
Rs.			Rs.	Rs.
	General Fund:			
34,105,018	Balance as per last Balance Sheet		31,163,306	
8,777,463	*Add:* Adjustments to funds		21,529,812	
42,882,481			52,693,118	
11,719,175	*Less:* Deficit for the year		19,552,123	
31,163,306				33,140,995
223,502,625	**Endowment Funds**	7		227,277,214
109,702,795	**Other Funds**	8		103,864,358
16,456,341	**Current Liabilities and Provisions**	9		16,726,682
1,118,000	**Legacy Deposits**			1,118,000
381,943,067	**TOTAL**			382,127,249

This is the Balance Sheet referred to in our report.

For SRIHARI & CO.,
Chartered Accountants

CHENNAI
30.10.2019

MANOJ NIRANJAN G
Partner

ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020
AT 31ST MARCH 2019

As at 31-3-2018	ASSETS	Schedule No.	As at 31-3-2019	
Rs.			Rs.	Rs.
25,911,916	**Fixed Assets**	1		**43,933,489**
	Investments: (At cost)	2		
336,045,154	In Scheduled Banks and Financial Institutions			**313,895,790**
	Current Assets, Loans and Advances:			
7,366,917	Stocks	3	6,733,186	
538,460	Sundry Debtors	4	426,666	
4,476,845	Loans and Advances	5	7,061,521	
7,603,775	Cash and Bank Balances	6	10,076,597	
19,985,997				**24,297,970**
381,943,067	**TOTAL**			**382,127,249**

Schedule Numbers 1 to 9 and Notes on Accounts form part of the Balance Sheet.

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee of
THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

NANCY SECREST
Treasurer

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Year ended 31-3-2018	EXPENDITURE	Schedule No.	Year ended 31-3-2019
Rs.			Rs.
18,664,775	Departments	(A)	**17,885,956**
444,873	Charitable Work	(B)	**511,470**
1,698,560	Propagation of Theosophy	(C)	**1,601,202**
2,269,698	International Offices	(D)	**3,085,279**
5,425,621	Establishment	(E)	**7,566,331**
2,205,848	Other Expenses	(F)	**5,459,965**
30,709,375	**TOTAL**		**36,110,203**

For SRIHARI & CO.,
Chartered Accountants

CHENNAI
30.10.2019

MANOJ NIRANJAN G
Partner

ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2019

Year ended 31-3-2018	INCOME	Year ended 31-3-2019	
Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
382,513	Theosophical Publishing House		**1,030,873**
468,966	General Donations		**674,741**
26,090,897	Interest Received	23,007,802	
12,042,687	*Less*: Transferred to Various Funds	10,569,989	
14,048,210			**12,437,813**
2,683,884	Fees and Dues		**2,000,875**
1,210,000	License Fees		**200,000**
196,627	Adyar Day Donations		**213,778**
11,719,175	Deficit		**19,552,123**
30,709,375	**TOTAL**		**36,110,203**

Schedules A to F and Notes on Accounts form part of the Income & Expenditure

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee of
THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

NANCY SECREST
Treasurer

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020

SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE A/C: 2018-2019

HEAD OF ACCOUNT	EXPENDITURE	FUNDS TRANSFERRED	BALANCE
Departments (Schedule A)			
Bhojanasala & LBC	479,783	80,000	399,783
Garden	2,553,464	200,000	2,353,464
Maintenance	15,132,709	—	15,132,709
	18,165,956	**280,000**	**17,885,956**
Charitable Work (Schedule B)			
Animal Welfare	817,584	817,584	—
B. M. Animal Dispensary	2,855,514	2,855,514	—
Adyar Nature & Environment	165,100	165,100	
Education	840,740	840,740	—
Welfare Grants	674,637	606,007	68,630
Free Dispensary and Medical Aid	265,940	—	265,940
School Fees and Books	153,000	—	153,000
Social Welfare Work	140,039	140,039	—
Others	29,250	5,350	23,900
Cyclone Relief	94,566	94,566	—
Theosophical Order of Service Internationa	620,647	620,647	—
	6,657,017	**6,145,547**	**511,470**
Propogation of Theosophy (Schedule C)			
Adyar Library and Research Centre	1,946,305	1,946,305	—
Adyar Theosophical Academy	384,394		384,394
The Theosophist and *Adyar Newsletter*	506,483	—	506,483
Archives and Museum	261,185	—	261,185
Theosophy Science Centre	3,100	—	3,100
Vasanta Press	709,057	303,968	405,089
School of the Wisdom	128,287	87,336	40,951
Book Gift	95,437	95,437	—
Convention & Seminars	902,171	902,171	—
	4,936,419	**3,335,217**	**1,601,202**
International Offices (Schedule D)			
President and Vice-President	966,636	7,518	959,118
Treasurer	1,581,726	—	1,581,726
Secretary	408,722	—	408,722
Travelling	135,713	—	135,713
	3,092,797	**7,518**	**3,085,279**
Establishment (Schedule E)			
Headquarters	818,476	—	818,476
General Manager's Office	237,229	—	237,229
Housekeeping	1,807,261	—	1,807,261
Sanitation	670,661	—	670,661
Security	4,732,704	700,000.00	4,032,704
	8,266,331	**700,000**	**7,566,331**
Other Expenses (Schedule F)			
Insurance	34,111	-	34,111
Information Technology	103,057	-	103,057
Legal and Court Expenses	571,000	-	571,000
Audit Fees	271,500	-	271,500
Rates and Taxes	958,645	-	958,645
Bank Charges	62,806	-	62,806
Depreciation	2,057,125	-	2,057,125
Motor Car Expenses	38,500	-	38,500
Miscellaneous	170,910	-	170,910
Provision for Gratuity	172,973	-	172,973
Provision for bad debts	1,019,338	-	1,019,338
	5,459,965	-	**5,459,965**
Grand Total (Rs.)	**46,578,485**	**10,468,282**	**36,110,203**

For SRIHARI & CO.,
Chartered Accountants

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee of
THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

CHENNAI
15.09.2019

Manoj Niranjan. G
Partner

NANCY SECREST
Treasurer

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

BUDGET VS. ACTUAL FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31-3-2019 AND BUDGET FOR 2019-2020

(Rupees)

EXPENDITURE	Budget 2018-19	Actuals 2018-19	Budget Variance	Budget 2019-2020
Departments (Net Expenditure)				
Bhojanasala & Leadbeater Chambers	1,300,000	479,783	(820,217)	1,325,000
Garden	2,515,000	2,553,464	38,464	3,342,000
Maintenance	16,235,000	15,132,709	(1,102,291)	17,105,000
Utilization from Other Funds	(3,000,000)	(280,000)	2,720,000	(3,000,000)
Charitable Work				
Animal Welfare & BMAD	2,500,000	3,673,098	1,173,098	3,125,000
Education	2,500,000	840,740	(1,659,260)	2,600,000
Welfare Grants	350,000	674,637	324,637	500,000
Free Dispensary & Medical Aid	500,000	265,940	(234,060)	244,000
School Fees and Books	250,000	153,000	(97,000)	250,000
Social Welfare Work	150,000	140,039	(9,961)	150,000
HPB Hostel	150,000	-	(150,000)	150,000
Cyclone Relief	-	94,566	94,566	-
Theosophical Order of Service	-	620,647	620,647	-
Others	10,000	194,350	184,350	10,000
Utilization from Other Funds	(5,650,000)	(6,145,547)	(495,547)	(6,000,000)
Propagation of Theosophy				
Adyar Library and Research Centre	2,315,000	1,946,305	(368,695)	2,223,000
Theosophical Publishing House	51,000	0	(51,000)	1,285,000
The Theosophist and *Adyar Newsletter*	857,000	506,483	(350,517)	920,000
Wake Up India	87,000	-	(87,000)	-
Vasanta Press	574,000	709,057	135,057	350,000
Information and Public Relations	-	-	-	4,000
Archives and Museum	700,000	261,185	(438,815)	1,339,000
Theosophy Science Centre	10,000	3,100	(6,900)	10,000
School of the Wisdom	300,000	128,287	(171,713)	350,000
Book Gifts	200,000	95,437	(104,563)	200,000
Convention & Seminars	3,500,000	902,171	(2,597,829)	2,196,000
Information Technology (IT)	-	103,057	103,057	300,000
Adyar Theosophical Academy	-	384,394	384,394	120,000
Utilization from Other Funds	(6,315,000)	(3,335,217)	2,979,783	(6,000,000)
International Offices				
President and Vice-President	500,000	966,636	466,636	517,000
Treasurer	1,600,000	1,581,726	(18,274)	1,709,000
Secretary	600,000	408,722	(191,278)	498,000
Traveling	-	135,713	135,713	-
Utilization from Other Funds	-	(7,518)	(7,518)	-
Establishment				
Headquarters	200,000	818,476	618,476	200,000
General Manager's Office	300,000	237,229	(62,771)	199,000
Housekeeping	1,300,000	1,807,261	507,261	2,024,000
Sanitation	900,000	670,661	(229,339)	1,019,000
Security	4,500,000	4,732,704	232,704	6,003,000
Utilization from Other Funds	(60,000)	(700,000)	(640,000)	(100,000)
Other Expenses				
Insurance - liability	25,000	34,111	9,111	35,000
Insurance - auto	-	-	-	-
Legal Expenses	200,000	571,000	371,000	200,000
Audit Fees	150,000	271,500	121,500	160,000
Rates and Taxes	150,000	82,645	(67,355)	36,000
Property Taxes	-	876,000	876,000	3,070,000
Water Taxes	-	-	-	-
Other fees & Charges	-	-	-	-
Bank Charges	10,000	62,806	52,806	20,000
Credit card Charges	-	-	-	-
Danomojo Charges	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	900,000	2,057,125	1,157,125	900,000
Motor Car Maintenance	150,000	38,500	(111,500)	100,000
Miscellaneous	150,000	170,910	20,910	2,000
Provision for Gratuity (see departments)	150,000	172,973	22,973	150,000
Provision for Bad Debts	2,600,000	1,019,338	(1,580,662)	-
Expenditures budget vs actual	**34,414,000**	**36,110,203**	**1,696,203**	**39,840,000**

INCOME	Budget 2018-19	Actuals 2018-19	Budget Variance	Budget 2019-2020
Propagation of Theosophy				
Theosophical Publishing House	-	1,030,873	1,030,873	-
General Donations	7,150,000	674,741	(6,475,259)	600,000
Donations to Other Funds	-	-	-	-
Interest	10,000,000	23,007,802	13,007,802	15,000,000
Less: Transferred to Other Funds	-	-	-	-
Membership Fees and Dues	3,000,000	2,000,875	(999,125)	3,000,000
Licence Fees (ATA pending)	200,000	200,000	-	-
Miscellaneous Receipts	10,000	-	(10,000)	10,000
Adyar Day Donations	200,000	213,778	13,778	200,000
Deficit	13,854,000	8,982,134	(4,871,866)	21,030,000
Income budget vs. actual	**34,414,000**	**36,110,203**	**1,696,203**	**39,840,000**

HEADQUARTERS

ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020

INDIA

OFFICERS AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS FOR 2019

Executive Committee:

1.	Mr Tim Boyd	*President*
2.	Dr Deepa Padhi	*Vice-President*
3.	Ms Marja Artamaa	*Secretary*
4.	Ms Nancy Secrest	*Treasurer*
5.	Mr Pradeep Gohil	*General Council Member*
6.	Mrs Jenny Baker	*Member*
7.	Mr Jaikumar Kannan	*Member*
8.	Mr S. Harihara Raghavan	*Member*
9.	Prof. C. A. Shinde	*Member*
10.	Mr A. L. Somayaji	*Member*

General Manager		Mr Jaikumar Kannan
Adyar Library	*Director (Sanskrit Studies)*	Dr T. Narayankutty
	Librarian	Prof. C. A. Shinde
Editorial	*Head*	Mrs Clemice Petter
Garden	*Superintendent*	Mr Devadass
Housekeeping	*Superintendent*	Mrs Vijaya Ravindran
Leadbeater Chambers and Bhojanasala	*Superintendent*	Mrs Veena Ramachandran
Maintenance	*Hon. Superintendent*	Mr R. Somanathan (until 20 Jan. 2019) Mr V. M. V. Narasimhan (from 21 Jan. 2019)
Medical Service	*Doctors*	Dr S. D. Inbaraj & Dr R. Revathy
Museum and Archives	*Officer in Charge*	Ms Jaishree Kannan
Sanitation	*Superintendent*	Mrs Vijaya Ravindran
School of the Wisdom	*Director*	—
Security	*Superintendent*	Mr K. Ravindran
Theosophical Publishing House	*Manager*	Mr K. Jaikumar
Vasanta Press	*Manager*	Mr V. Gopalan

OLCOTT EDUCATION SOCIETY

	Chairman	Mr Tim Boyd
	Secretary	Mr Jaikumar Kannan
	Treasurer	Mr T. S. Jambunathan
Olcott Memorial School	*Headmistress*	Mrs R. Lalita
	Director	Dr P. Thirumalai
Social Welfare Centre	*Manager*	Mrs R. Mythili
Vocational Training Centre	*Director*	Mrs Sudha Natarajan
Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary	*Coordinator*	Mr Shravan Krishnan
HPB Hostel	*Warden*	Mr Umanath (until April 2019) Mrs Janaki (from June 2019)

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS 2019

National Societies and Sections	27
Regional Associations	12
Presidential Agencies	13
Lodges Attached to Adyar	9
Total Lodges	847
Total Centres	269
Total Membership 2018	24,564
Total Membership 2019	23,957

Section/Area	Number of Lodges	Centres	Members	
1. Africa, East and Central	5	-	131	S
2. Africa, South	6	-	105	S
3. Africa, West	11	-	242	S
4. America, Central	2	1	8	R
5. Argentina	17	6	289	S
6. Asia, South East	4	-	504	P
7. Australia	11	7	788	S
8. Austria	3	-	62	R
9. Bangladesh	6	-	137	P
10. Belgium	8	-	65	S
11. Bolivia	7	3	75	S
12. Brazil	32	23	654	S
13. Canada	5	2	126	R
14. Chile	3	-	54	R
15. Colombia	4	-	28	P
16. Costa Rica	5	-	66	P
17. Cuba	12	-	574	S
18. Dominican Rep.	2	2	40	P
19. England	32	-	581	S
20. Finland	21	1	345	S
21. France	22	-	315	S
22. Germany	7	3	124	S
23. Greece	8	1	130	S
24. Hungary	3	-	31	P
25. Iceland	8	-	276	S
26. India	389	97	10,703	S
27. Indonesia	15	1	209	S
28. Ireland	2	1	87	R
29. Italy	26	18	838	S
30. Ivory Coast	no report			R
31. Mexico	11	6	150	S
32. Netherlands	10	7	348	S
33. New Zealand	12	4	588	S
34. Norway	1	1	14	R
35. Pakistan			NA	(A)
36. Peru	2	-	32	P
37. Philippines	21	10	233	S
38. Portugal	10	2	120	S
39. Puerto Rico	3	-	43	P
40. Russia	9	-	135	P
41. Scotland	3	-	129	R
42. Slovenia	4	2	57	R
43. Spain	11	9	349	S
44. Sri Lanka	3	-	182	P
45. Sweden	6	-	155	S
46. Switzerland	2	2	27	P
47. Togo	-	-	22	R
48. Ukraine	8	2	105	R
49. USA	35	48	3,328	S
50. Uruguay	5	-	54	R
51. Venezuela	2	-	15	P
52. Wales	3	1	63	R
Subtotal	839	263	23,736	

Lodges/Members Attached to Adyar

	Lodges	Centres	Members	
1. Croatia, Lotus Lodge	1	-	18	L
2. Ecuador, El Sol Lodge	-	-	-	L
3. France, Arc-en-ciel & Ananda Lodges:	2	1	31	L
4. Israel, Covenant Lodge	1	5	65	L
5. Paraguay, Fraternidad	1	-	16	L
6. Qatar, Blavatsky Lodge	1	-	9	L
7. Slovenia, Blavatsky Lodge	1	-	36	L
8. USA, Orlando Lodge	1	-	15	L
7. Adyar Fellows-at-Large	-	-	31	
Grand Total	**847**	**269**	**23,957**	

S= Section, R= Regional Association, A= Presidential Agency, L= Lodge attached to Adyar.
Ivory Coast, Mexico, Scotland, Togo and Ecuador have figures of previous year in the absence of fresh data

THE THEOSOPHICAL PUBLISHING HOUSE

TPH continued to maintain the printing and sale of physical books, at least in India, in spite of more and more people switching to e-books. The Amazon website also served to attract members and the general public to TPH publications. In the current year (April 2018 to March 2019) the sales was Rs. 40.9 lakh, which was Rs 7.8 lakh more compared to the previous year.The surplus was Rs. 10.31 lakhs compared to the previous year's figure of Rs 3.83 lakhs. The deficit on account of the publication of journals in the current year reduced to Rs. 5.06 lakhs from the previous year's deficit of Rs. 6.33 lakhs. The number of subscribers continued to be the same as in the previous year, though there was a variation in the amounts received. During the period from October 2018 to November 2019, two new releases, *A Students' Guide to the Masters' Teachings*, Volumes 1 and 2, and *Mystic Experiences*, as well as twelvere prints, were brought out.

Mr K. Jaikumar
Manager

THE ADYAR LIBRARY AND RESEARCH CENTRE

Tim Boyd, representing **ALRC**, signed a Memorandum of Understanding **(MOU)** with **Sree Sankara University of Sanskrit, Kalady, Kerala (SSUS)** in January for joint publication of books, facilitation of SSUS research scholars to access ALRC resources, and so on. This is another step in the continuing endeavor for the revival of Sanskrit and Indian heritage. The Kerala Theosophical Federation members were present, and the ALRC librarian and director spoke on the immense possibilities of this historical alliance in the academic field.

Due to the shifting of Adyar Archives to the new building next to the Library, in order to make more space, a 2-month-long endeavour was undertaken to rearrange the books and shelves in the Library.

Automation and digitization continued with the scanning of 100 books, 60 palmleaf manuscript folios, 50 TRs, 14 printed books and 71 printed copies. The main categories were Asiatic Civilization (Oriental Generalia), Buddhism (Philosophy & Religion), China (excepting Buddhism), Japan (excepting Buddhism), Ancient Egypt, Hindu Brahmanical Civilization, Hindu Culture as a Whole, Bibliography (book catalogues), Catalogues of Manuscripts, Journals, Congresses, Series, Islamic Civilization, Jainism, Theosophy, and so on.

Volume 83 (2019) of Brahmavidya, the official journal of ALRC, is getting ready as per the Director. It will contain 14 research articles, reviews and studies and is expected to be published in December 2019. The next volume (2020) will be a special issue on the topic of Srividya Upasana. To start with, research articles on the subject will be published

in the journal. The general standard of Brahmavidya is planned to be upgraded via peer review surveillance and a committee has been formed with Dr Radha Raghunathan, Dr S. Bhuvaneswari and Dr Uma Maheswari.

About 100 books were donated by "Thekke Madham" Library, Thrissur, Kerala (50 ALRC publications and 50 old theosophical books).

Prof. C. A. Shinde
Librarian

THE SCHOOL OF THE WISDOM

This year the SOW had three courses. The first was in November by Pablo Sender of the Krotona Institute, USA, called "Higher Consciousness — Its Nature and Awakening", which introduced students to a comprehensive study of the teachings of H. P. Blavatsky, dealing with both its philosophical and the practical aspects. Jacques Mahnich led the next course in December, "Living Theosophy in the 21st Century" which offered a realistic assessment of the science and technology-centered world, and emphasized the role of the timeless wisdom as the guiding light of people's lives. In January students were invited to study "Meditation in the Light of Theosophy" guided by Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu where it was made clear that a much-needed transformation of awareness could be brought about by practising meditation based on Blavatsky's Meditation Diagram.

Mrs Nora Simon
Assisting, The School of the Wisdom

ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM

The Archives is planned to be shifted to part of the ALRC augmented with civil renovation work that began in May. It will be renamed "Surendra Narayan Archives" based on a substantial donation received from former international Vice President, Mr Surendra Narayan. The present building has become unsuitable due to substantial moisture seeping in from the river next to it.

In the current year 20 researchers had used the Archives. During the December Convention two exhibitions were held, one at the Archives titled "The Mahatma Letters" where some of the original letters were displayed for the first time. The other was at the Museum titled "Prominent People Associated with the Theosophical Movement." This exhibition brought out the influence and impact of the theosophical movement on various sections of people, all over the world directly or indirectly. For more interested scholars, there was information available in the form of a booklet. Besides this, there were interesting objects displayed in the museum too.

Bernd Jesse's voluntary work has been

an extraordinary contribution to the Archives and Museum. His expert guidance and unassuming work during the convention was an inspiration to the whole team. In October Jaishree Kannan presented a paper at Athens, Greece, "Adyar Archives — Narrative of a Treasure House", which was well received.

Ms Jaishree Kannan
Officer in Charge

OLCOTT EDUCATION SOCIETY

Olcott Memorial Higher Secondary School, in addition to being committed to academic improvement, also focuses on co-curricular activities aiming at the wholesome development of students. Some of the activities in that direction have been sports and cultural events, waste and disaster management inputs, national day events, educational tours to places of historical importance, and so on. Teachers' empowerment programmes for upgrading their skills and English-speaking abilities were conducted.

HPB Hostel houses 8 boys at present and employs a full-time warden, Janaki, since June 2019, who resides next to the hostel. A regular schedule of activities is available for the inmates and an appraisal system is in place for monitoring the same.

Vocational Training Centre, headed by Sudha Natarajan, imparts free training to around 24 students in tailoring and weaving with the help of 3 teachers. The two courses on offer are tailoring and embroidery, and weaving and other craft-related skills. The students find employment in organizations or they set up their own tailoring units.

Social Welfare Centre, run by R. Mythili and Lakshmi Narasimhan, caters to 46 young children who are involved in play activities and provided with nutritious food. Important events were celebrated involving the parents of the children as well.

Ms Sripriya Raghavan
Secretary

ADYAR THEOSOPHICAL ACADEMY

The long-felt need for schools with a theosophical educational approach was fulfilled this year. The Adyar Theosophical Academy (ATA) commenced on 24th June 2019 with 21 students and 8 staff members within the Adyar campus in the building earlier used by TPH, repurposed to house the new school. ATA is run by Theosophical Education Society (TES) formed in April 2019 with the four international officers of the TS as ex officio members.

For the inauguration of ATA, Vic Hao Chin, Jr, planted a *Magnolia champaca* (champaka) sapling to mark the occasion and was joined by guests, teachers and students in adding soil and sprinkling water to as a symbol of collective nurture. In his address he said that theosophical education aims at laying the right foundation

for the development of the personality, mind and character of children. Tim Boyd visited the school in October on the occasion of "Vidyarambham", which traditionally marks the start of the learning process in India. He planted a Ficus religiosa (Bodhi tree) sapling to denote wisdom. He spoke of his shared vision for the school and what it embodies, which is to create an atmosphere that invites the deeper aspect of a human being in its complete expression.

ATA draws upon its motto of "Learning and Growing through Transformative Education" to prepare students for life in all its dimensions, imparting wholesome education in its true sense, led by Vic Hao Chin, Jr, president of the Golden Links Institution in the Phillippines. The school has 43 students from Pre-School to Grade II and aims to expand by one grade each year till Grade XII. The class strength is capped at 20 students with a high teacher-student ratio to impart quality education. The school seeks to affiliate with CISCE Board. The campus has beautiful trees, some quite old, including a clump of *Syzygium cumini* (Jamun) trees flanked by two banyan trees.

Infrastructure

There are 5 classrooms and a spacious hall catering to indoor activities and "centre time". An outdoor atrium was created to host events and interactive sessions. A sand pit in the shape of a lotus leaf serves as a sensory play area for children. A picket fence in the front, with stone steps leading to the front porch gives the building an approachable and unimposing look for the little ones. A well-equipped library is being added to constantly. The Besant Gardens grounds inspire the children to discover science through Nature. Children often explore the area leading into the sapota orchard where they chance upon grazing horses, donkeys, even a camel, developing appreciation for their fellow beings. A gym was created by a group of volunteers using logs of wood fallen during the Vardha cyclone.

Teachers and students

A lot of like-minded teachers and students were drawn to the school as it started taking shape. Most staff and some of the parents have some old connection with the TS. A TS member from Colombia is a volunteer. More members from all over the world are anticipated. School of the Wisdom directors, TS members visiting Adyar and guests have visited and interacted with staff and students.

Programmes

The first term has seen many activities and interactive sessions, all experiential in nature. From experiments demonstrating scientific principles to marvelling at architecture in Nature, ATA uses the method of elucidating principles in an interactive manner. It also involves sensory play, Nature play and spontaneous sessions involving crafts, outdoor sessions, and so on. Appreciation and care for Nature is sparked right from admiring butterflies and insects to identifying flora and fauna in and around ATA. Students have been introduced to the joy of organic

farming and have done their first harvest of fenugreek leaves.

Another instance of grounded learning through application is by hosting interactive sessions. Hosts included physics enthusiast Anoop Jaiswal, architect Gilles Delage, research scholars Harini Alladi and Mrigank Mukhopadhyay, Krishnamurti Foundation trustee P. Krishna, theosophists and Gandhians Maurice and Jenny Bisheff, and SOW Director Jose Foglia. More such engagements with theosophists the world over will nurture students to be the empathetic individuals society needs today.

Students have gone for many field trips for practical learning. These include museum, post office, zoo, planetarium, and the Guindy National Park. Post these field trips, learning is assimilated and progresses in the form of bringing back observations into the classroom and expressing them through crafting and sharing their unique perspective. Celebrations are an occasion for children to come together and foster a sense of community, and festivals like Krishna Jayanti, Ganesha Chaturthi, Indian Independence Day, Teacher's Day, Diwali and Christmas, to name a few, were celebrated.

To further convey the message of Transformative Education, ATA has a website and pages on Facebook and Instagram. The TS Adyar website, under the menu "Explore", gives basic information and a link to the ATA website. Targeted Facebook and Google ads are placed from time to time for wider reach.

The school campus has been abuzz with the delightful laughter and pitter-patter of children as they take their first steps into schooling. The school holds great promise for creating a space to bring together individuals with a universal outlook who have a passion for nurturing young minds.

BESANT MEMORIAL ANIMAL DISPENSARY

No report.

Mr Shravan Krishnan
Coordinator

BESANT SCOUT CAMPING CENTRE

No report.

Mr A. Victor Frank
Besant Scout Camping Centre

THE THEOSOPHICAL ORDER OF SERVICE

The Theosophical Order of Service (TOS) is present in 36 of the 59 countries where the TS is active. The TOS has several outreach avenues such as the "TOS: Intouch online" e-Newsletter published quarterly, the website <international.theoservice.org>, and the Facebook page, <facebook.com/tosinternational/>.

TOS International Secretary, Nancy Secrest, focused on visiting TS/TOS groups in India this year. Her TOS talks emphasized women's empowerment, the encouragement of youth involvement in the TS/TOS, and theosophical education. She also gave a TOS presentation of activities around the world to the ITC (International Theosophical Conference) in July.

The programs and projects highlighted in the annual reports received this year are sometimes different in their approach, but centre around these same issues: women's issues, education and youth as they are needs common in many countries. Most TOS groups are also active in animal welfare and supplying humanitarian assistance at both group and individual levels. Almost all countries, even if they do nothing else, have healing groups and some practise peace meditations on a regular basis.

Some of our TOS groups worldwide collected and/or donated money to help with flood relief efforts in India again this year. Many also helped with recovery efforts in Bhubaneswar, India, after Cyclone Fani hit there. These efforts were particularly close to home as damage was sustained at some of our own TOS projects. Hands-on effort by TOS members was, of course, prevalent there.

The work that TOS groups around the world are doing testifies to Annie Besant's foresight in creating the TOS, as its members are truly putting the First Object of the TS into action. It also follows HPB's teachings in *The Key to Theosophy* that theosophists should live a life of active altruism.

Mrs Nancy Secrest
International Secretary, TOS

REPORTS OF WORK

IN

NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND SECTIONS

REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

PRESIDENTIAL AGENCIES

LODGES ATTACHED TO ADYAR

(Where necessary, reports have been translated, edited or condensed)

NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND SECTIONS

AFRICA, EAST AND CENTRAL

Founded 1947, membership 131. The Section comprises of the countries of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Zambia, called regions. As part of the centenary celebrations of the Nairobi Lodge chartered in 1918, its 100-year history was presented in the form of 5 talks covering various aspects of its work. A SWOT analysis was conducted through a seminar entitled "Stepping Purposefully into the Next Century", and an action plan was devised for attracting new members and making existing members more active. Tributes were paid to exemplary past and present members. The General Secretary was reelected for another two years. The notable thing was that the election was done via email enabling all members to vote, unlike past years when only the convention delegates could participate. The overall membership has gone down by 5%. Getting good volunteers for administrative work is the major challenge. The important TS days were celebrated. Regular weekly meetings in Gujarati and fortnightly meetings in English were held, as also book study sessions, meditation sessions and ladies' meetings. The Nairobi Lodge has a stall which sells books and The Kitwe Lodge has a well-utilized library. The Section constitution revision process is expected to be complete soon.

Mr Narendra M. Shah
General Secretary

AFRICA, SOUTH

Founded 1909, membership 105. The Section with its 6 Lodges continues to go through difficult times. Lodge attendance has been affected by large-scale emigration. This has also resulted in older members being increasingly in need of help. A major crime wave has necessitated moving meetings to daytime hours. In the midst of adversity people seem to withdraw more rather than seek solace and support within groups. Public lectures are held regularly. Other activities like study groups vary depending on each Lodge and its membership. A focus group looks at esoteric and occult aspects and symbols occurring in movies as they attract a large number of people. Periodic esoteric fairs are conducted as fundraisers. The Cape Town Lodge now functions in a newly bought building and three other Lodges have their own premises. The Lodge constitutions are being updated in line with the Section constitution which was amended and sent to Adyar last year. Better control has been brought in regarding managing Lodge funds and assets. Preparations are now on for the biennial Convention and AGM at the Pretoria Lodge next spring (September 2020).

Mr Desmond Douglas Chapman
Deputy General Secretary

AFRICA, WEST

Founded 1956, membership 242 (2017). No report.

Mr John Osmond Boakye
General Secretary

ARGENTINA

Founded 1920, membership 289. The publication of Tim Boyd's video blog with Spanish subtitles continued on the YouTube channel, "Sociedad Teosófica en Argentina". Similarly published were the video recordings of the theosophical schools by Pablo Sender, Vicente Hao Chin, Jr, Eduardo Gramaglia, Ricardo Lindeman, Juan Viñas and P. Krishna. The issues of the national magazine, *Theosophy in Argentina*, came out thrice in the year. National speakers continued regular visits to various cities in the country. The National Conference was held in Horco Molle in Tucumán in November 2018, with the theme: "The Mission of the Theosophic Society and the Purpose of Its Members". The Seminario Luso Hispánico was organized in collaboration with the Inter-American Federation, with the participation of members of the United States, Brazil, Chile and Bolivia. Dr Pablo Sender led a seminar on *The Voice of the Silence* and gave public talks in various Branches. Other programs were various panels, a painting and Theosophy workshop, and a tango workshop. Dr José Foglia from Uruguay was in charge of the Winter School in July 2019 and the topic was "Meditation Neurophysiology". The General Secretary participated in the International Convention at Adyar in December 2018, and the third meeting on Strategic Planning in Naarden in July 2019. The Section started virtual courses on Theosophy. The introductory course, lasting 16 weeks and covering the main teachings, was delivered twice in the year. A total of 240 people registered and 25% of them completed the course. A second-level course is being planned now.

Mr Esteban Langlois
General Secretary

AUSTRALIA

Founded 1895, membership 788. The international President Tim Boyd had a successful tour of six Australian states in May 2019. A new study centre was certified at Logan in Queensland. This was named "Certified Group" in the Section. The National Convention was successfully held in Sydney on the theme "Divine Wisdom in Theory and Practice". The TS in Australia's first Perennial Philosophy prize was awarded for a course run at the University of Western Australia. The annual School of Theosophy was held on the theme "Seeking Out the Way". Several events were conducted at the Section's national centres. A new and more

comprehensive website was completed for the Section which features a shared platform for the Lodges and Branches. There was a full programme of activities during the year in the Lodges, Branches and Groups throughout the Section.

Mrs Linda Oliveira
General Secretary

BELGIUM

Founded 1911, membership 65. Regular meetings are organised by all Lodges including weekly study groups based on theosophical classic texts, lectures, meditation courses and sessions and service work. A video show of J. Krishnamurti's lectures is done monthly. The renewed "Introductory Course on Theosophy" in French and Dutch continued to be rolled out covering the basic topics of theosophical teachings. White Lotus Day and the New Year's reception brought members together in Brussels. A guided tour of the Grand Place in Brussels attracted many members who appreciated the symbology and the explanations on the alchemical background of the architecture. Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu visited in November and gave a lecture on the energetic aspects of meditation. Pradeep Gohil gave a lecture on the source of spiritual energy in June. Martin and Susan Leiderman were present. In Februrary, Geshe Lobsang Tsultrim gave a lecture on "The Seven Points of Mind Training". The Section also hosted the summer EFTS Executive and Council meetings. Setting up a website continues to be a priority. Also on the anvil is a project to restore and instal a unique stained glass, part of the history of the theosophical community.

Mrs Sabine Van Osta
General Secretary

BOLIVIA

Founded 1965, membership 75. There are 7 Lodges and 3 study centers. A few Lodges had closed down and their members joined other Lodges or became direct members of Adyar. Weekly public talks were broadcast live on Facebook. Books studied included *Dharma* by Besant, *The Ocean of Theosophy* by Judge, *The Shadow* by Isaac Jauli, *Theosophy in the 21st Century* by Carlos Perez, and so on. Talks on various topics were held in the Lodges. Adyar Day, White Lotus Day and other important days were commemorated. The presidential agent attended the San Rafael summer school in April and acquired books published by Inter-American Theosophical Federation for the headquarters library and bookstore. She also visited Lodges in Cochabamba, Santa Cruz and La Paz. A workshop-retreat was conducted in Lake Titicaca by Isis Resende from Brazil in May, who also gave a public talk on the Count of Saint-Germain. Another public talk on "Does Karma Have Any Relationship with Meditation?" was given by

Maria Rosa Martinez in September. A quarterly online magazine *Sociedad Teosofica en Bolivia* was launched in December with articles on theosophical teachings, the Ancient Wisdom, and so on.

Mrs Sonia Montecinos Rojas
General Secretary

BRAZIL

Founded 1920, membership 654. No report.

Mr Sergio Carvalho de Moraes, Jr
General Secretary

CUBA

Founded 1905, membership 574. The Annual Convention was celebrated in January on the theme, "Seeking a Path" with lectures on Kriya Yoga, *shatsampatti*, Three Paths of Perfection and *At the Feet of the Master*. In July a Theosophical Summer School was organized for members on the theme, "Theosophical Research, Authors and Meditation". Members from Costa Rica, Spain, America, Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic also attended. The publication of the quarterly electronic magazine, *Revista Teosofica Cubana*, continues. The Lodge studies were on topics related to Krishnamurti and Christianity, and the books of Taimni, Codd, Besant and Joy Mills, in addition to *Man, God and the Universe*, *The Key to Theosophy* and *The Secret Doctrine*. The elementary course in Theosophy had three cycles during the year. Founders' Day, Adyar Day and White Lotus Day were all celebrated on the nearest weekends of the dates.

Mr Carlos Vicente Fernández Pérez
General Secretary

ENGLAND

Founded 1888, membership 581. The chief activities were the North-West Federation weekend Conference in May with the title "Esoteric Teachings: a Path to Wisdom" and the week-long Summer School in August entitled "Reality, Illusion and Life", with excellent lectures and also time to relax. Several international speakers visited including Isis Resende from Brazil in November and Kurt Leland from America in June. The books studied during the year included *The Secret Doctrine*, *The Mahatma Letters* and *The Key to Theosophy*. Courses were offered on sacred geometry, the *Yoga Vasishtha*, the sermons of Meister Eckhart, Vedic Astrology, after-death states and meditation. Lodge studies were concentrated on the Three Objects of the Society this year. The online Diploma in Theosophy continued to attract students worldwide and the long-awaited Higher Diploma course was introduced. There were 150 students for the two courses. Under the revised National Speakers

Scheme training courses will be offered for new speakers. The website has been improved and the bi-annual magazine, *Esoterica* has a new format. A bi-monthly newsletter is also being sent out. A merger with the Welsh Region is on the cards soon.

Mrs Jenny Baker
General Secretary

FINLAND

Founded 1907, membership 345. The Annual Convention of the Finnish Section with 21 Lodges and 1 study group was held in Oulu in April. Main event of the year was our Summer School in Kreivilä in June. The theme of the course was "The Foundation of Theosophy". The course was conducted by Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu from France. After the Finnish Summer course Kim-Diêu continued her tour to Estonia where the lodges arranged the Estonian Summer School with the theme 'Human in Front of the World and in the World'. Estonian lodges also had a winter seminar in Tartu in January, *The Secret Doctrine* study days in Tartu in May and an Autumn study camp in Aegvidu in August. A Silent Retreat was held in Kreivilä in August. The other activities continued with regular lodge studies, public lectures, seminars and courses around the country. The Section attended 2 big book fairs in Southern Finland. A two-day fair called 'The Days of Light' with several theosophical lectures was also organized. Three seminars were arranged in cooperation with Finnish theosophical sister-organisations, in Jyväskylä, Kreivilä and Väinölä.

Mr Janne Vuononvirta
General Secretary

FRANCE

Founded 1899, membership 315. The main targets of the year were fulfilled such as having fortnightly public meditation group meetings in Paris, organizing one-day Silent Retreats every trimester in Paris, enhancing TS visibility on the Internet (for example using facebook), and activating the Annie Besant Endowment Funds which has aided Adyar Theosophical Academy. The theosophical work continued steadily in France and Congo, Africa. There were serious impacts from social movements. The website was hacked, so a new one is being built. Books such as *Self-Culture* by Taimni, *The Secret Doctrine*, *Buddhist Catechism* by Olcott, *The Mental Body* by Powell, *Man Visible and Invisible* by Leadbeater were studied in the monthly meetings. Fortnightly free courses for the public by Brigitte Taquin and Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu continued. A meditation group meets every fortnight. One-day silent retreats every trimester attracted new members. Special programmes included a fundraising event, "Celebration of Light", in December; workshops on "Constitution of the Human Being" in December by Marc Vernet, "Latent Powers in the Human Being" by Kim Dieu in May, a public lecture by Muriel Pécastaing-

Boissière in March on "Annie Besant and the Third Object of the Theosophical Society". The programmes of the Section were published on its website, on facebook and in its magazine *Le Lotus Bleu* which is published ten times a year. The National Convention took place in June in Paris on the theme "From Animal to Human: Evolution of Consciousness". The programme included a public lecture, a symposium and discussions and the film, *Why Has Bodhi Dharma Left for the East.* Books getting ready for publishing are *Collected Articles* by Danielle Audoin, *Science and Occultism* by Taimni and *Desire and Fulfilment* by Hugh Shearman.

Mrs Jeannine (Nano) Leguay
General Secretary

GERMANY

Founded 1902, membership 124. The main event of the year was the German Summer School attended by 34 people in July at Bad Zwesten on the theme, "Living Theosophy in the 21st Century", with guest speaker Jacques Mahnich from France who gave presentations on "World Vision", "Causal Analysis", "Science History", "State of the Art", "Theosophy", "Bhakti and Raja Yoga", "Development of Awareness", "Opening of the Heart" and "Bridge between Science and Theosophy". Entertainment included playing the bamboo flute accompanied by a tambura by Ludwig Pesch, a German born musicologist, with a diploma in Carnatic Music at Kalakshetra, India, and a presentation by Isolde Sültemeyer on the early history of German Youth Movement concerning Theosophical Society in Germany. The book, *O Lanoo! The Secret Doctrine Unveiled*, by Harvey Tordoff, an epic poem of the story of the emergence of the cosmos and the evolution of mankind (*The Stanzas of Dzyan*) in modern language, was published in German and distributed to all members. The work and meetings in the Lodges and study groups continued on a regular basis. A new Study Group has been formed at Kronberg near Frankfurt.

Mrs Manuela Kaulich
General Secretary

GREECE

Founded 1926, membership 130. Foundation Day, White Lotus Day and Adyar Day were celebrated in the traditional manner. Preparation was going on for two important international conferences, namely, the History of Theosophy Conference in Athens and the European School of Theosophy Conference in Eretria, both in October. The free quarterly magazine *Ilisos* has about 200 subscribers. TPH Greece reprinted *The Key to Theosophy*. Also *The Secret Doctrine*, Vol. III, under the Greek title, *Mystics, Occult and Magical Arts*, Book A and Book B. It published the translation of *Talks on the Path of Occultism*, Vol. I, by Besant and Leadbeater, under the Greek title *The Art of Occultism* —

Comments on Light on the Path. Vol. II of the same book is under proofreading and Vol. III under translation. The Lodges including those on the island of Crete met regularly with lectures and discussions on theosophical topics including HPB's *The Secret Doctrine*, *The Key to Theosophy* and *Isis Unveiled*; Besant's *The Evolution of Life and Form* and *Death and After*; Krishnamurti's life and works; and selected subjects from the teachings of the Masters of the Wisdom. A new study group was formed for the study of *The Secret Doctrine* in Athens.

Dr Alexandros Bousoulengas
General Secretary

ICELAND

Founded 1921, membership 276. Mr Jón Ellert Benediktsson was unanimously elected as General Secretary at a special General Meeting in December 2017. The Summer School was held at Reykjavik successfully on the theme, "Life is One". Meetings were held on Fridays and Saturdays with a half-hour meditation, and a lecture or video screening, open to members and the general public. Attendance is usually between 30 and 60 persons. After the meeting there is the opportunity of discussions with the lecturer. Topics were "The Third Man and the Loving Heart", "The Power of Sound", "Mindfulness and Its Use in Psychotherapy", "Vimala Thakar and Jiddu Krishnamurti", "Thoughts on Buddhism", "Ramakrishna's Life and Influence", "Meditation According to the Teachings of Jung", "*Sat* and *Chit*: the Keys to the 4th State of Consciousness", "Children Who Remember Former Lives", "Tales of H. P. Blavatsky", "On Being Human", and so on. Some Lodges have members-only meetings on Sundays. The theosophical journal *Gangleri* is published as an annual issue of 160 pages, with a painting by Nicolas Roerich on the cover. The newsletter "Mundilfari" is published thrice an year. The website of the TS in Iceland is: <lifspekifelagid.is>.

Mr Jón Ellert Benediktsson
General Secretary

INDIA

Founded 1891, membership 10,703. The 127th Convention of the Indian Section with 486 Lodges and Centres under 16 Federations was kicked off at Adyar Theatre on 1 January 2019. Tim Boyd was the chief guest and Dr Deepa Padhi presided. The Convention continued on 3 January chaired by Yogendra Desai. The support convention was held in parallel at Varanasi. Meetings were held as customary to commemorate Besant's birthday, Foundation Day, Adyar Day and White Lotus Day on the corresponding dates. The Easter Theosophical Conference took place in Adyar in April with the theme, "The Real Purpose of the Theosophical Society", presided over by Tim Boyd. Nancy Secrest inaugurated and N. C.

Ramanujachary spoke on "Why the Masters Founded the Theosophical Society". The Annual Study Camp was held in November 2018 at the Headquarters in Varanasi directed by Vic Hao Chin, Jr, on "Self-Transformation" with 105 persons. Study camps were conducted in Bhowali on topics like Blavatsky's *The Key to Theosophy*, Codd's *Light on the Path*, "Present Moment Awareness", Taimni's *Glimpses into the Psychology of Yoga*, Blavatsky's *Isis Unveiled*, "Self-Awareness", "Letters from the Masters of the Wisdom", and Leadbeater's *The Masters and the Path*, as follows: The Kerala TF in April–May presided by M. A. Raveendran; the Marathi TF in May directed by C. A. Shinde; the Karnataka TF in May directed by B. V. Thippeswamy; the Gujarat and Bombay TFs in May directed by U. S. Pandey; the Utkal, Assam, Bengal and Bihar TFs in June coordínated by P. K Mahapatra; the UP and MP/Rajasthan TFs in June directed by U. S. Pandey; the Tamil TF in June conducted by V. Narayanan; the Rayalseema TF in September conducted by N. C. Krishna; and the Telugu TF in March–April by P. L. N. Prasad and K. V. L. Kantha Rao. Also various study classes and camps were held in other parts of India around the year. Propagation of Theosophy among students was taken up to inject theosophical and moral values through a 6-month certificate course called "Self-Realization through Theosophy" emphasizing on character-building aspects, life skills, imbibing and practising right values and behaviour. This started in October and 50 students enrolled. The Board of Studies was dissolved in October and it was decided to move to a system of goal-setting to motivate Federations, Lodges and all members to achieve true propagation of Theosophy. A meet was organized at Bhowali attended by Tim Boyd where participants set SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Trackable) goals and a booklet was compiled and distributed to all concerned. The goals were continuously kept in focus by tracking and reviewing the percent achievement monthly in the *Indian Theosophist*, the Indian Section journal. At the end of the year, the overall average consolidated achievement was 63%. Accommodation facilities were upgraded and enhanced to help house upto 1500 delegates of the next international convention at Varanasi, to allow for the upgradation of Leadbeater Chambers in Adyar. The ISMS software was used for managing membership and financial data of Lodges, Federations and the Section. Issue of diploma to new members is faster now. The website <theosophy-india.org> links to membership forms and the *Indian Theosophist* and other magazines. The Central Property Committee had its hands full sorting out various commercial, legal, disposal and disciplinary issues and freeing up property around India for further expansión of Theosophy. Dr A. Kannan, an eminent theosophist, author, founder of the Theosophy-Science study group, and long-term resident at Adyar passed to peace in January.

Mr Pradeep H. Gohil
General Secretary

INDONESIA

Founded 1912, membership 209 (2017). No report.

Mr Widyatmoko
General Secretary

ITALY

Founded 1902, membership 838. The 26 Groups and 18 Centres had both members-only meetings as well as public conferences. For this purpose, the Italian TS used open-to-public seats and libraries owned by it in some cities, sites provided by public or private institutions in other cities, and private houses or spaces especially rented for the occasion in all other locations. The Section website, <teosofica.org>, is constantly updated and attracts over 5,500 monthly visitors. It links to a digital collection of theosophical reviews published in Italy right from 1898. The monthly magazine *Rivista Italiana di Teosofia* has over 1,000 subscriptions. A monthly newsletter is emailed to over 3,500 interested people. Facebook pages with regular updates are also maintained. The General Secretary was re-elected for another 3 years upto July 2022. The publishing house, ETI, published the following books in 2019: *Some Practical Suggestions For Daily Life* by Blavatsky, *Ancient Wisdom* by Besant, *A Theosophical View of the Book of Job* by Pier Giorgio Parola, *Alphabet of the Soul* by Antonio Girardi, printed in Italian and English with 21 watercolors by Enrico Sempi, and *The Yoga of Beauty* by L. J. Bendit. The 105th National Congress took place in Cavallino-Treporti, during May June, on "Consciousness and Awareness in the Light of Theosophy". The first Italian edition of the "Silent Retreat" by Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu took place in Travo in September. A delegation led by Patrizia Calvi participated in the international Convention at Adyar. A seminar was organized by the Italian Section, the European Federation and the Swiss Section in Switzerland in March on "Beauty, Wisdom and Harmony in Spiritual Research".

Mr Antonio Girardi
General Secretary

MEXICO

Founded 1919, membership 150. Adyar Day was commemorated at the National Headquarters and the building that houses it was partially remodelled. Prof. P. Krishna gave a lecture on "The Art of Living". A conference was conducted under the leadership of Martin Leiderman, who also directed the School of the Wisdom 2019. Members from Cuba, Puerto Rico and Costa Rica participated. The centenary of the founding of the Mexican Section was commemorated and talks were held with Mexican speakers. Isis Resende, President of the Inter-American Federation, parti-

cipated and later visited Branches and study centres located in various parts of the country. Isaac Jauli and Enrique Reig held a workshop on "Coaching without Coach" and other conferences. The General Secretary visited all the Branches and study centres. The "Victoria" Study Center was created and a Lodge was closed.

Mr Enrique Sanchez Arrieta
General Secretary

THE NETHERLANDS

Founded 1896, membership 348. The library has 21,000 books with an online catalogue and is linked to the Lodges and ITC, Naarden. The quarterly magazine, *Theosofia*, is also available on the website <theosofie.nl>, which provides all information regarding the TS in Netherlands. A bimonthly newsletter has around 900 subscribers. There are 10 Lodges and 8 Centres. Activities include lectures, study and meditation. The decline of membership over the years has to be stemmed and a strategic planning project has been started for a renaissance. Social media has become a powerful tool in this regard.

Mr Wim Leys
General Secretary

NEW ZEALAND

Founded 1896, membership 588. The New Zealand Section over the last few years has been implementing a strategy to encourage ongoing exploration of Theosophy by members and to create a greater visibility of the TS in New Zealand through advertising. This focus has started showing results with the attraction of new members around the country, as a result of branches developing programmes exploring Theosophy in today's language. The programmes incorporate events centred around how Theosophy is a practical tool for helping people to understand life and giving context and wisdom in how they live. "The Process of Self-Transformation" and "The Rainbow Bridge — Searching for the Divine Within" were seminars that were conducted of which the latter was directed by international speaker Dorothy Bell using the "Wizard of Oz" as the method of Self-discovery. David and Betty Bland from the USA were guest speakers at the national Convention in January 2019. An online introductory study course exploring Theosophy is in the process of being developed. Videos for this purpose are in the final stage of completion.

Mr John Vorstermans
General Secretary

THE PHILIPPINES

Founded 1933, membership 233. The new board was elected for 2019–2020. Members and officers of the Tzu Chi foundation volunteered in October 2018. Regular Zen meditation practice is offered to TS members. Group meditation was organized after a talk by Abbess Jianshu and Jas Anand demonstrated the Gurdijeff exercises in October. In November, youth activities were organized after the national Convention and Virchand Shah, ex-General Secretary of the TS in Uganda visited. In December there was a musical performance and healing session. Shirish K. of the Ramakrishna Mission gave a lecture on Hinduism in December. In January 2019, various meditation techniques were shared such as the Yoga Nidra and the Brahmakumaris' Raja Yoga and Sonal Murali gave a presentation on the interconnectedness of all things. A wonderful Valentine's Day speech on love was delivered in February, ranging from romantic love to the highest Divine love. A TS youth activity had a lecture on the Ageless Wisdom followed by dinner in March. In April there was a presentation on Rosicrucianism. White Lotus Day and Wesak were celebrated in May. In July there was a sitar performance, which is a first to a Filipino audience! There was participation at the Manila International Book Fair in September. Twice a month guided meditation sessions and Tai Chi sessions are conducted, and the Self-Transformation Seminar twice a year.

Mr Charlton Jules Romero
General Secretary

PORTUGAL

Founded 1921, membership 120. Traditional commemorative days were observed. Public sessions were held, every fortnight, in various formats, from traditional talks to panels and discussion groups with a wide variety of themes having been addressed. The spirit of questioning and spontaneous contribution of participants were some of the strategies to encourage dialogue and collective investigation. One of the main objectives was to motivate members and attract new sympathizers. The Portuguese Section hosted in March-April 2019 the Iberian Days, under the theme "From the Unreal to the Real: Illusion, Truth, Discernment" with about 50 participants. The website is a good source to know the history and regular activities. A monthly newsletter is published. Social networks are being used to reach a larger public.

Mr Carlos Guerra
General Secretary

SPAIN

Founded 1921, membership 349. Regular activities included study meetings with members and non-members, public lectures, basic courses on theosophical teachings, and so on. Books like *The Secret Doctrine*, *The Mahatma Letters*, *Isis Unveiled*, were studied as also the basic concepts explained in *The Key to Theosophy*. Meditation retreats and seminars on various topics also were held. In November 2018 the annual Silent Retreat was conducted by Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu near Barcelona on the subject "Exploring the Different After-Death States of Consciousness" with 50 participants. Members participated in the Iberian Days organized by Portuguese Section at Lisbon. The Summer School took place in August at Costa Brava with Vic Hao Chin, Jr, as the speaker and "Self-Mastery, Meditation and the Spiritual Life" as the topic with 90 attendants.

Mrs Angels Torra-Buron
General Secretary

SWEDEN

Founded 1895, membership 155. The new General Secretary took over in January. The magazine, *Tidlös visdom* (Timeless Wisdom), was published 4 times during the year and distributed to members free of cost. The Lodges and study groups had lectures and workshops on various theosophical themes like "Sincerity", "Tibet in My Heart", "Theosophy, a Way of Living", "Do We Have a Free Will?" and an intro-duction to Zen meditation. The books, HPB's *The Secret Doctrine* and *Self- Culture* by I. K. Taimni were studied. Two TS weekends, each with 20 participants were organized: in autumn Wim Leys lectured on "Annie Besant Life and Work", "The Unity of Religions" and "Theosophical Work for the Future"; and in spring the theme was "Life, Death and Thereafter". Gatherings were held on Foundation Day and White Lotus Day and a Christmas party was arranged for all members. Summer school was held in Stockholm on "Thought, Word, Action" with cultural activities in the evenings. Most of the activities are open for non-members. Members participated in the international convention at Adyar and the GC Meeting in Naarden. The bookshop with new and secondhand books is open twice a week.

Mrs Birgitta Skärbo
General Secretary

UKRAINE

Founded 2013, membership 105. Till last year Ukraine was a Regional Association and was granted the Charter bestowing Section status in August 2019. There are 8 Branches and 2 study centres including a new Branch started in November 2018. Annual convention of the TS in Ukraine took place in November in Kyiv, on the theme "From Teaching to Insight: Altruistic Heart". Some of the topics presented were "Song of Love", "Philosophy of Heart", "Theosophy in the Modern World", "Altruism is a Keynote in Modern Ukraine", "Altruistic Heart is the Beginning of the Way", and so on. Vicente Hao Chin, Jr, visited during April–May 2019 and conducted a seminar in Kyiv on "Self-Transformation: Higher Potential for More Effective Life" with 40 participants. He also held a workshop in May, "Way of Spiritual Self-Determination" in the National Technical University and took part in the White Lotus Day celebration. During June–July the seventh Summer School took place with the theme "Power of Unity" in the Blavatsky Cultural Centre in Pavlynka, Odesa, with 35 persons taking part. Incidentally, the Centre has international status and there are plans to add on to it and equip with modern amenities mostly with voluntary contributions of time and material. The TOS helped children, animals, and others who were affected by military operations. The mobile exhibition on HPB continued around the country in various libraries and museums accompanied by public lectures and round table discussions. In May an international, scientific, interdisciplinary conference on "Spiritual Aspects of Modern Attitude" was conducted with international participation from USA, Netherlands, Philippines, and Brazil. Two issues of bilingual magazine *Theosophy and Science* were published during the year. Information on Theosophy and the TS in Ukraine are available at <theosophy.in.ua>, on facebook and on YouTube. The electronic magazine *Svitoch* had 6 issues. Delegates participated at the international Convention 2018 in Adyar.

Svitlana Gavrylenko
General Secretary

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Founded 1886, membership 3328. The national headquarters provides services and resources for members across the US and theosophical outreach to the general public. The Online School of Theosophy <study.theosophical.org> was started in collaboration with the Krotona Institute of Theosophy. The office was certified as a "Level 1 Arboretum" which is likely to attract more visitors. Two more study centers were certified, and total number of Lodges and study centers is 81 now. A 12-month course, "Death and the Afterlife", was created and sent to members of the National Lodge. The prison program continued with books to prison libraries and correspondence courses for prisoners. The Olcott Memorial Library circulation

increased over 700% and membership 21%. Digitization efforts increased on the <archive.org> website. The Blavatsky Lectures and many publications by C. Jinarājadāsa are open to viewers worldwide at <archive.org/details/@the_theosophical_society_in_america>. Digitization of films, slides, and historic documents was continued by the archives department, used by academic researchers, theosophists, and the general public. The online <Theosophy.wiki> encyclopedia is growing rapidly. Thursday lecture series are webcast to reach an international audience. The link is <youtube.com/user/TheosophicalSociety>. Many half-day and all-day workshops and three weekend meditation retreats were hosted. Free community events open to all are held including World Tai Chi and Qigong Day, Interfaith Prayers for Peace, Celebrate the Season, and Meditation for World Peace. Online offerings include a meditation group, yoga classes, tai chi classes, and so on. A number of interactive webinar programs, currently seven weekly groups, are available now for active public participation. TPH, Wheaton, is producing more audio books and e-book editions. A new title, *Serving a Higher Purpose: Theosophy for a Meaningful Life*, by David Bruce, was released. Special pricing is done for chosen titles each month. Also available are a number of CDs and DVDs of lectures at the TSA over the years. The network infrastructure and the website, <theosophical.org>, were redesigned for improved efficiency and security. Sixty-six new video titles were added to the YouTube channel which has around 48,000 subscribers now. The 50-year-old Quest Bookshop is in touch with around 4,000 customers through email or facebook, and Instagram, actively promoting the TS and its programs. *Quest* magazine added a feature, Members' Forum, to which TS members contribute short articles. *Messenger* has been discontinued and its content integrated with *Quest*.

Dr Barbara Hebert
General Secretary

REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

AMERICA, CENTRAL

Founded 1929, membership 8. There are 2 Lodges and a Study Center. They are engaged in the study of *The Key to Theosophy*, *The Secret Doctrine*, and an introductory course of Theosophy from Costa Rica. Tim Boyd had visited in May 2018. There was a change of Organizing Secretary during the year.

Mrs Beatriz Elisena Martinez Pozas
Organizing Secretary

AUSTRIA

Founded 1891, membership 62. There are 3 Lodges, and they have weekly lectures through the year. Subjects of study are classical theosophical teachings and related areas, communicated through the website. In October 2018 some members attended the annual gathering of the European School of Theosophy in Italy on the theme "Memento Mori — Word Views of Death and Dying". In July and August some members attended the summer school of the TS in Germany. In March 2019, the annual meeting of the Austrian Association was held at the facilities of the Linz Lodge.

Mr Albert Schichl
Organizing Secretary

CANADA

Founded 1924, membership 126. The members studied various books and topics such as Taimni's *Self-Culture, Science of Yoga*, *Man, God and the Universe*, Besant's *Ancient Wisdom*, Sri Ram's *Man, His Origins and His Evolution*, Judge's *Ocean of Theosophy*, Wyatt's *Cycles of Eternity*, Blavatsky's *Secret Doctrine*, Hall's *Secret Teachings of All Ages*, and so on. Seminars and conferences were held through the year with topics as varied as "Getting to Know Our Muslim Friends", "The Inner and Outer Worlds", "The Solar System", "You, Me and the Others", "The Mystic Poetry of Rumi, Gibran and Others", "Keeping the Link Unbroken", and so on. The website <theosophieauquebec.com> has content in French and English to serve the wider society in Canada. Special days like White Lotus Day and Christmas/Solstice were observed with due reverence. The National Convention happened in August in Vancouver, and guest speakers Michael Gomes, Barbara Hebert, Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu spoke on the theme, "The Three Objects of Theosophy in the 21st Century". They spoke of the present century as

the "Century of Profound Changes" as opposed to "Century of Conflicts" denoting the 20th century. Members attended the Parliament of World Religions in Toronto in November and shared a booth with TS in America.

Mrs Maryse DeCoste
Organizing Secretary

CHILE

Founded 1920, membership 54. An ongoing legal process was decided by the Chilean justice system in favor of the TS in Chile. Several members participated in the Luso-Hispanic Theosophical Seminar in Argentina during the occasion of the National Days. Isis Resende from Brazil and Arnoldo Salzmann from Argentina visited and spoke at public conferences. The year's slogan was "Unity as Spiritual Attitude". White Lotus Day and Foundation Day were celebrated in the usual manner. Arundhati Lodge, the oldest Lodge in Chile founded in 1902 under Col. Olcott's signature, celebrated its 117th anniversary. The Lodges had meetings and the studies included Pavri's Theosophy Explained, HPB's Key to Theosophy, Barborka's Divine Plan, and so on. Various topics were discussed including "In Connection with Love" and "The Self and the self". Public lectures and talks included topics such as "How to Harmonize Living Together", and "The Unity as Spiritual Behaviour". A members-only workshop named "Art as Spiritual Practice and the Theosophical Influence on the Human Being" aimed to understand the theosophical influence in art through multiple artistic disciplines in different stages of history. The Department of Education does a cycle of weekly public talks on the basics of Theosophy and completed 3 cycles during the year. 30 people attended and 13 became members.

Mr Víctor Aguayo Acuña
Organizing Secretary

IRELAND

Founded 1919, membership 87. It was no mean achievement to have now reached the 14th All Ireland Convention at Dublin in May 2018 on the theme, "The Mysticism of Theosophy". The centenary of Theosophy in Ireland was also celebrated and each delegate received a gift of the *Theosophical Glossary* by HPB. Membership is growing and relationships have formed with members throughout Ireland. The study group topics were "Notes on the *Bhagavad Gita*", *The Voice of the Silence*, "The Basis of Theosophy", and so on. Meetings comprised of short meditations, occasional study days and inspiring talks given by our members with discussion afterwards. Topics included "What Is Meditation; Why It Is the Key", "The Angelic Realm and Humanity", "The Power of Silence", "Anatomy of the Spirit", Burnier's uplifting article "Other Ways of Knowing", and so on, all accompanied by the obligatory refreshments with friendly chat.

IVORY COAST

Founded 1997, membership not known. No report.

Mr Pierre-Magloire Kouahoh
Organizing Secretary

NORWAY

Founded 1913, membership 14. The meeting of the General Council was held in March 2019 and a committee was set up for the election of a new Organizing Secretary. It was decided that Lodge Dharma was to be re-awakened to represent and present the core teachings of the Theosophical Society. The plan is to open for general participation after the initial members have received some training and education. It was also decided to clean up the membership list in June to have a true picture of members.

Mr Andreas Mikael Isberg
Organizing Secretary

SCOTLAND

Founded 1910, membership 129 (2016). No report.

Mr Stuart Mackenzie Trotter
Organizing Secretary

SLOVENIA

Founded 1992, membership 57. There are 4 Lodges and 2 study centres. Information about Lodges Adyar, Surya, and Understanding is not available as reports were not received. Lodge Surya Dawn continued to study the classical theosophical books and articles from The Theosophist and Theosophy Forward. Two schools were organized: a one-day school in October 2018 on the theme, "To be a Member of the Theosophical Society Adyar — Inherent Duties, Obligations and Rewards", and a one-day summer school in June 2019 entitled "The letters of the Masters of the Wisdom and the present time". Members of the International Centre for the Theosophical Research and Study, Italy, gave lectures. Also a public lecture was given in October titled "Practising Spirituality in the Present World" with good attendance. All Memorial Days were celebrated.

Mrs Irena Primc
Organizing Secretary

TOGO

Founded 1997, membership 22 (2017). No report.

Mr Kouma Dakey
Organizing Secretary

URUGUAY

Founded 1925, membership 54. The Lodges met once a week. Studies included *The Creative State of Mind* by Krishnamurti, Blavatsky's *The Secret Doctrine* and *The Voice of the Silence*, internet articles of interest to members on topics such as modern physics, science and archaeology, convergence between modern science and ancient wisdom, and so on. Many video and film shows were conducted. A basic Theosophy course was conducted by Ema de Souza Leal and Nelson Corrales. Songs were used to support themes like "Karma" and "Spiritual Path". Some theosophical books were made available on their website with good results. Many lectures were given. TOS activities included recycling, animal care, helping the disabled, and so on.

Mrs Ema Ma. de Souza Leal
Organizing Secretary

WALES

Founded 1922, membership 63. The Organizing Secretary resigned in April and continues to fulfil the responsibilities till a new person is elected. From October 2019 some of the members will move to the English Section. Members' study meetings were held on the Wisdom Teachings every month. Public talks were held twice a month. Visiting speakers were sponsored by the TS in England. Attendance at meetings has declined a bit.

Mrs Julie Cunningham
Organizing Secretary

PRESIDENTIAL AGENCIES

ASIA, EAST AND SOUTH-EAST

Founded 1990, membership 504. There are 4 Lodges, one each in Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar and Singapore, which make up this Agency. The relevant websites for information are <theosophyasia.net> representing the Agency, <chinesetheosophy.net> in the Chinese language developed by Singapore, <theosophy.jp> in Japanese, and so on.

The Nippon Lodge in Tokyo, formed in 1972, and with 37 members now, has monthly study meetings. They have created videos on various topics in Theosophy, and have published Occult Chemistry, Through the Golden Gate, Key to Theosophy, and Practical Occultism in Japanese, under the presidentship of Naoto Okamoto.

The Selangor Lodge in Malaysia (formed 1929) has 97 members and holds fortnightly reading sessions and occasional talks, spiritual discourses and meditation and healing sessions. The Library is open on these days. The present President is Ng Ay Na.

The Olcott Lodge in Yangon founded by Col. Olcott in 1885 has a membership of 37. A temporary registration certificate was granted last year, and final approval is expected soon. Weekly group studies and popularization of vegetarianism apart, a programme was initiated for dental education among school children and discouragement of betel chewing and smoking among teenagers. Weekly "conscious force" meditation and "peace and love" meditation were conducted as well as monthly "life force" meditation. The new President is Thein Kyu, succeeding Pyi Thane who passed away.

The Singapore Lodge formed in 1889 has 333 members and holds weekly meet-ings and study classes. The conducting of the 46th edition of "A Course in Theosophy" resulted in the intake of 26 new members. "Self-Transformation" seminar was held by Vic Hao Chin, Jr, in October. Foundation Day, Lodge Anniversary Day, Adyar Day and Wesak Day were celebrated. The present President is Chong Sanne.

Mr Chong Sanne
Presidential Representative

BANGLADESH

Founded 2013, membership 65. Two Lodges were active. The historical building of Comilla Lodge was locked by local authorities and the matter is being pursued with the help of the Indian High Commission at Dhaka.

B. L. Bhattacharyya
Presidential Representative

COLOMBIA

Founded 1937, membership 28. No report.

Mr Antonio Martinez
Presidential Representative

COSTA RICA

Founded 1997, membership 66. There was some transfer of members between Lodges. Summer and winter schools were conducted with topics such as *The Secret Doctrine*, Part 2 (Anthropogenesis). Some of the Lodges took the lead in celebrating Adyar Day, White Lotus Day, Annie Besant's birthday and Foundation Day. Regular study of books and topics such as *The Voice of the Silence*, *The Ocean of Theosophy*, *Light on the Path*, *The Buddhist Catechism*, *Raja Yoga*, *Karma*, and so on was done.

Mrs Ligia Montiel
Presidential Representative

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Founded 1987, membership 40. There are 2 Lodges and 2 study groups. Meetings both for the members and the public, been conducted regularly. Workshops were also held. Regular half-yearly classes are conducted by the study groups. Some of the topics/books were *The Seven Jewels of Wisdom*, *The Kyballion*, *Theosophic Reflections*, *From Internal to External Transformation*, and so on.

Mrs Magaly Polanco
Presidential Representative

HUNGARY

Founded 1907, membership 31. The General Meeting was held in November 2018 and May 2019, where activities of the year were discussed. Of the 3 Lodges, two are not active, but one has scope for revival. Public lectures are recorded and uploaded to YouTube, many of which have a good audience, especially people from rural áreas. Of the 60 uploaded videos most have over 100 downloads and some even over 1000 downloads. Some of the topics were *Death — And After*, *The Seven Rays*, *Esoteric Christianity*, and so on. Participation in "esoteric" book festivals facilitated the meeitng of some interested people. The books *The Secret Doctrine*, Part 3, *The Key to Theosophy* and *The Process of Self-Transformation* were translated and some published. Over 170 texts and writings are available for free download from the website.

Mr Janos Szabari
Presidential Representative

PAKISTAN

Founded 1948, membership not available. No report sent.

Mr Bhagwan Bharvani
Presidential Representative

PERU

Founded 1924, membership 32. There are 2 Lodges which between them hosted 23 public talks during the year. In addition to the free internet course on Theosophy, they also had courses like "Course of Meditation", "Basis of Esoteric Philosophy", and "Basic Course of Theosophy" for the public. Members continued their regular meetings and studies. All the customary celebrations including a big Christmas celebration were jointly conducted by the Lodges.

Mr Julio Gerardo Pomar
Presidential Representative

PUERTO RICO

Founded 1925, membership 43. There are 3 Lodges and they have talks every Sunday on various theosophical subjects and books such as *The Ocean of Theosophy*, *The Power of Thought*, and so on. A public course on Theosophy was conducted during July–August and there were seminars and workshops on "Spiritual Development and Managing Emotions", "Living the Truth of Our Soul", "Purpose in Life", "Intuitive Intelligence", and a video conference on "Talks about Our Soul". The special TS Days were celebrated in the usual manner.

Mrs Magaly Polanco
Presidential Representative

RUSSIA

Founded 2013, membership 135. There are 9 Branches including one chartered recently. Public meetings twice a month and weekly members meetings were held. There were beginners' meetings and internet discussions as well. The 8th Annual All-Russia Theosophical Conference took place in Kemerevo in March 2019. A half-yearly e-magazine, *Modern Theosophical Thought* is published every November and May. The annual summer theosophical seminar took place in the Altai Region. White Lotus Day and Light Bringer Day (12 August) were celebrated. The official website <ts-russia.org> has all pertinent information including links to other websites.

Mr Alexey Besputin
Presidential Representative

SRI LANKA

Founded 1926, membership 182 (2017). No report.

Mr D. A. L. Wanigasekera
Presidential Representative

SWITZERLAND

Founded 1910, membership 27. Weekly Lodge meetings, fortnightly study group meetings, and Theosophy courses continued regularly. The Swiss and European Theosophical Seminar organized in collaboration with the European Federation and the Italian Section was held in March on "Beauty, Wisdom, Harmony in Spiritual Research". The websites in Italian, German and French are respectively <teosofia.me>,<theosophische-gesellschaft-schweiz.ch>and <theosophiesuisse.org>

Andrea Biasca-Caroni
Presidential Representative

VENEZUELA

Founded 1953, membership 15. Foundation Day, White Lotus Day and Anniversary of the Section were celebrated. Weekly meetings are done in the 2 Lodges. Study of books such as *Pillars of the Spiritual Life* (Radha Burnier), *Daily Meditations* ("Tolerance", Katherine Beechey) and *A Yoga of Light* (Geoffrey Hodson) were ongoing. Every meeting included a half-hour meditation session for peace.

Mrs Nelly Nouel
Presidential Representative

LODGES ATTACHED TO ADYAR

LOTUS LODGE (CROATIA)

Membership 18. The Lodge meetings take place weekly. Two books were translated during the year, namely, Blavatsky's *Foundations of Esoteric Philosophy* and *Gods in Exile* by van der Leeuw.

Mr Ninoslav Volaj
Lodge General Secretary

EL SOL LODGE (ECUADOR)

Membership 12 (2017). No report.

ARC-EN-CIEL AND ANANDA LODGES (FRANCE)

Membership 16 and 15 respectively. A public seminar was held in November 2018 by both Lodges with 35 people attending on "Theosophy: A Remedy for a Sick World" by Jacques Mahnich. Adyar Day was jointly celebrated with a lecture on "Adyar and the Founders". White Lotus Day was also observed jointly. There were also seminars on "The Path of the Hero" in December and "Initiatic Tarot" in June. Members of both Lodges met every month and worked on *Intelligence Came First* by E. Lester Smith and *First Principles of Theosophy* by Jinarajadasa respectively.

Mr Jean Iozia and Mrs Brigitte Iozia
Lodge Presidents

COVENANT LODGE (ISRAEL)

Membership 65. Regular activities consisted of weekly study sessions and monthly public lectures, both on a variety of subjects. Monthly *Secret Doctrine* study sessions were also in progress. There were weekend seminars, single-day seminars, theoscience meetings and workshops on topics like "Meditation for Building Bridges in Israeli Society", "Light and Consciousness: Basis of Objective Universe", "History of the Future", "Karma and the Illusion of Time", and so on. In April the spring convention was held on the theme, "A Thousand Shades of Beauty". There is a young people's group and 5 study groups.

Mr Abraham Oron
Lodge President

FRATERNIDAD LODGE (PARAGUAY)

Membership 16. Report in Spanish in protected PDF format.

Mrs Isabel Torales
Lodge President

H. P. BLAVATSKY LODGE (QATAR)

Membership 9 (2017). There were fortnightly meetings with study classes on Theosophy and theosophical articles from October to August with the exception of June and July, the vacation season. Christmas and White Lotus Day were celebrated.

Mr Dom Escobido
Lodge President

BLAVATSKY LODGE (SLOVENIA)

Founded 2018, membership 36. Members met twice a week, Monday open to public and Thursday for members only. Topics included "Course in Miracles", "Treatise of White Magic" in comparison with teachings of Leadbeater, Besant, Taimni and Blavatsky, "The Law of Karma", HPB's *The Voice of the Silence*, and so on. European Federation President, Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu held a seminar on "Discerning True Spirituality from the Occult" in October.

Mrs Tatjana Ruzic
Lodge President

ORLANDO LODGE (USA)

Membership 15. Meetings of the Lodge are held twice monthly with the exception of the months of June, July and August. The first monthly meetings consisted of meditation and discussions on topics such as "Buddhist Meditation", "After Death Life", "Science and Spiritual Experience", "Inner Realm of Power", and so on. The second ones were discussing Besant's *Talks with a Class*. There were Healing Circle meetings once a month for those who need healing prayers.

Mr Carl Metzger
Lodge President

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY
AND
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
GENERAL COUNCIL

Date	Section	General Secretary, etc.	Address	Magazine	Email address
1947	Africa, East and Central	Mr Narendra M. Shah	PO Box 14525. 00800, Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya	*The Theosophical Light*	narendrashahi999@gmail.com
1909	Africa, South	Mr Desmond Chapman	31 Streatley Ave, cnr.Lothbury Ave, Auckland Park, Johannesburg PO Box 91523	*The South African Theosophist*	tsinsa.depgensec@telkomsa.net
1956	Africa, West	Mr John Osmond Boakye	PO Box 720, Accra, Ghana	*The West African Theosophist*	tswafrica@gmail.com
1929	America, Central *	Mrs Beatriz Elisena Martinez Pozas	Colonia Universitaria Norte, Calle Julio Mejia, Poligono, E-7 Mejicanos, San Salvador, EL SALVADOR		bemapo03@hotmail.com
1920	Argentina	Mr Esteban Langlois	Pje. Florencio Balcarce 71, Buenos Aires (1405)	*Teosofía en Argentina*	secretaria@sociedadteosofica.org.ar
1990	Asia, East and Southeast †	Mr Chong Sanne	540 Sims Avenue, No. 03-04 Sims Avenue Centre, Singapore 387 603	*Newsletter*	sanne@theosophyasia.net
1895	Australia	Mrs Linda Oliveira	Level 2, 162 Goulburn St., Surry Hills, NSW 2010	*Theosophy in Australia*	tshq@austheos.org.au
1912	Austria *	Mr Albert Schichl	Oberbaumgarten 25, 4204 Haibach im Mühlkreis	*Theosofie Adyar*	theosophie.austria@aon.at
2013	Bangladesh †	Mr B. L. Bhattacharya	B/4-3, Iswarchandra Nibas, 68/1, Bagmari Road, Kolkata 700 054		blbtos_2005@yahoo.com
1911	Belgium	Mrs Sabine Van Osta	Place des Gueux 8, B1000 Brussels	*Le Lotus Bleu*	info@ts-belgium.be
1965	Bolivia	Mrs Sonia Montecinos Rojas	Pasaje Jauregui No. 2255, La Paz		bolivia.ts7@gmail.com
1920	Brazil	Mr Sergio Carvalho de Moraes,Jr	SGAS Quadra 603, N. 20, CEP 70200-630 Brasilia (DF)	*Sophia*	secretaria@sociedadeteosofica.org.br
1924	Canada *	Mrs Maryse DeCoste	# 12-1475 Deep Cove Rd. North Vancouver, BC	*The Light Bearer*	modecoste@hotmail.com
1920	Chile *	Mr Victor Aguayo	Casilla 11 Sucursal Paseo Estacion, Estacion Central, Santiago	*Revista Teosófica Chilena*	sociedadteosoficachile@gmail.com
1937	Colombia †	Mr Antonio Martinez	Carrera 6, # 56-40, Bogotá (Chapinero Alto)	*Selección Teosófica*	antoniomartinezsgura1@gmail.com
1997	Costa Rica †	Mrs Ligia Montiel	Calle 38, Aves. 12–14, S.E. San José		limolo08@gmail.com
2007	Croatia ▲	Mr Darko Majstorovic	Siget 11, 10000 Zagreb, Republic of Croatia	*Teozofija*	teozofija@teozofija.net
1905	Cuba	Mr Carlos V. Fernández Pérez	Apartado de Correos 6365, La Habana 10600		teosocuba.1@gmail.com
1987	Dominican Rep. †	Mrs Magaly Polanco	Calle Santa Agueda 1652 Les Chalet Col San Juan Puerto Rico Apartado 23 00926		polancomagaly@yahoo.com
1888	England	Mrs Jenny Baker	50 Gloucester Place, London W1U 8EA		president@theosoc.org.uk
1907	Finland	Mr Janne Vuononvirta	Teosofinen Seura, Vironkatu 7 C 2, Fin 00170, Helsinki	*Teosofi*	info@teosofinenseura.fi
1899	France	Mrs Jeannine (Nano) Leguay	4 Square Rapp, 75007 Paris	*Le Lotus Bleu*	tsfr.office@gmail.com
1902	Germany	Mrs Manuela Kaulich	Hauptstr. 39, 93138 Lappersdorf	*Adyar*	theosophie-adyar@gmx.de
1928	Greece	Dr Alexandros Bousoulengas	25 Voukourestiou St., 106 71-Athens	*Ilisos*	info@theosophicalsociety.gr
1907	Hungary †	Mr Janos Szabari	H-1085 Budapest, Horánszky u. 27. fsz. 10	*Teozófia*	info@teozofia.hu
1921	Iceland	Mr Jón Ellert Benediktsson	PO Box 1257 Ingolfsstraeti 22, 121 Reykjavik	*Gangleri*	iceland.ts@gmail.com
1891	India	Mr Pradeep H. Gohil	The Theosophical Society, Kamachha, Varanasi 221 010	*The Indian Theosophist*	theosophyvns@gmail.com
1912	Indonesia	Mr Widyatmoko	Dsn. Parelegi no. 21, RT 02/ RW 09, Desa Purwodadi, Kecamatan Purwodadi, 67163 Pasuruan, Jawa Timur	*Theosofi*	indonesia.teosofi@gmail.com
1919	Ireland *	Mrs Marie Harkness	97 Mountsandel Road, Coleraine, UK BT52 1TA		marieharkness@yahoo.co.uk

1954	Israel ▲	Mr Abraham Oron	PO Box 9114, Ramat-Gan, Israel 5219002	*Or*	ornet@theosophia.co.il
1902	Italy	Mr Antonio Girardi	Viale Quintino Sella, 83/E, 36100 Vicenza	*Rivista Italiana di Teosofia*	sti@teosofica.org
1997	Ivory Coast *	Mr Pierre-Magloire Kouahoh	Yopougon, 23 Rue Princesse B. P. 3924, Abidjan 23	*Sophia*	pm_kouahoh@hotmail.com
1919	Mexico	Mr Enrique Sanchez	Ignacio Mariscal 126, Col. Tabacalera Mexicana, Mexico, D.F. 06030		sede@sociedadteosofica.mx info@sociedadteosofica.mx
1897	Netherlands, The	Mr Wim Leys	Tolsraat 154, 1074 VM Amsterdam	*Theosofia*	info@theosofie.nl
1896	New Zealand	Mr John Vorstermans	18, Belvedere Street, Epsom, Auckland 1051	*TheoSophia*	np@theosophy.org.nz
1913	Norway *	Mr Andreas Mikael Isberg	Ulriksborgveien 10, 1533 Moss		andreas.isberg@teosofisksamfunn.no
1935	Orlando ▲	Mr Carl Metzger	1606 New York Ave. Orlando, Florida, 32803-1838, USA		TheosophicalSocietyCF@gmail.com
1948	Pakistan †		Jamshed Memorial Hall, M. A. Jinnah Road, opp. Radio Pakistan, Karachi 74200	*The Karachi Theosophist*	bhagwanbharvani@hotmail.com
1925	Paraguay ▲	Mrs Isabel Torales	Carandayty 572, 1621, Asunción		ramafraternidadSTparaguay@hotmail.com
1924	Peru †	Mr Julio Pomar Calderón	Av Republica de Portugal 152, Breña, Lima 5	*Búsqueda*	sede-central@sociedadteosoficaenperu.pe
1933	Philippines, The	Mr Charlton Romero	Corner P. Florentino and Iba Streets, Quezon City, Manila	*The Philippine Theosophist*	philtheos@gmail.com
1921	Portugal	Mr Carlos Guerra	Sociedade Teosófica de Portugal, Rua José Estêvão, 10 B, 1150-202 Lisboa	*Osiris*	geral@sociedadeteosoficadeportugal.pt
1925	Puerto Rico †	Mrs Magaly Polanco	Apartado 36-1766 Correo General. San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936-1766	*Heraldo Teosófico*	polancomagaly@yahoo.com
2012	Qatar ▲	Mr Lijo Joseph	Crewing Officer, Teyseer Services Company P.O. Box 2431, Doha		qatarblavatskylodge@yahoo.com
2013	Russia †	Mr Alexey Besputin	159-52, Novomytischinsky prospekt, Mytischi, Moscow region, 141018	*Teosoficheskoe Obozrenie* (The Theosophical Review)	pr@ts-russia.org
1910	Scotland *	Mr Stuart Trotter	28 Great King Street, Edinburgh, EH3 6QH	*Circles*	albion.trotter@gmail.com
1992	Slovenia *	Mrs Irena Primc	Kajuhova UI 9, 3000 Celje	*Teozofska Misel*	irenaprimc3@gmail.com
1921	Spain	Mrs Angels Torra Buron	Av. Vall d'or, 85-87 08197 - Valldoreix(Spain)	*Sophia*	presidencia@sociedadteosofica.es
1926	Sri Lanka †	Mr D. A. L. Wanigasekera	146 Anderson Rd, Dehiwala,	*The Sri Lanka Theosophist*	dumindawanigasekera@gmail.com
1895	Sweden	Mrs Birgitta Skarbo	Karla Plan 5 B, 11460 Stockholm	*Tidlös Visdom*	teosofiska.samfundet.adyar@telia.com
1910	Switzerland †	Mr Andrea Biasca-Caroni	Via Collina 19, 6612 Ascona, CH-6612	*The Lotus*	info@teosofia.ch
1997	Togo *	Mr Kouma Dakey	S.O., A.R.T.T., BP 76, Adeta		
2013	Ukraine *	Mrs Svitlana Gavrylenko	Office 3, 7-A Zhylianska St., Kiev 01033	*Svitoch*	org@theosophy.in.ua
1886	USA	Dr Barbara B. Hebert	PO Box 270, Wheaton, IL 60187-0270	*The Quest*	info@theosophical.org
1925	Uruguay *	Mrs Ema Ma. de Souza Leal	Javier Barrios Amorín 1085, Casilla de Correos 1553, Montevideo		st.uruguay@gmail.com
1925	Venezuela †	Mrs Nelly Nouel	Romualda a Socarrás, Edif. de Oro Piso 12, Apto. 122 – Caracas		nellynouel5@gmail.com
1922	Wales *	Mrs Julie Cunningham	Bryn Adda, Brynsiencyn, Llanfairpwll, Anglesey, LL61 6NX UK		theosophywales@yahoo.co.uk

Date refers to the date of formation ** Regional Association* *† Presidential Agency* *▲ Lodge attached to Adyar*

The Council of the European Federation of National Societies: *Chairman:* Miss Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu, 67 Rue des Pommiers, F-45000 Orleans, France. Email: **trankimdieu@msn.com**
Inter-American Theosophical Federation: *President:* Mrs Isis M. B. Resende, SGAS 603 conj. E s/n. Brasilia-DF, CEP 70200-630 – Brazil. Email: **imbresende@gmail.com**
Indo-Pacific Theosophical Federation: *President:* Mr Gerard Brennan, 42 Melbourne Street, Concord, 2137, Sydney, Australia Email: **president@ipf-ts.org**
Pan-African Theosophical Federation: *Chairman:* Mr Tom Davis, 9 Ronean, 38 Princess Avenue, Windsor E 2194, South Africa. Email: **thosgdavis@icon.co.za**

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Mr Vicente Hao Chin Jr., No. 143, Maria Clara Street, Talayam, Quezon City, The Philippines (for 2016, 2017 and 2018)

Ms Tran-Thi-Kim-Dieu, No. 4, Square Rapp, 75007 Paris, France (for 2016, 2017 and 2018)

Ms Els Rijneker, Tolstraat 154, 1074 VM, Amsterdam, the Netherlands (for 2017, 2018 and 2019)

Mrs Patrizia Moschin Calvi, Viale Quintino Sella, 83/E, 36100 , Vicenza, Italy (for 2018, 2019 and 2020)

Mr Vinayak Pandya, 24/D Jeevan Parag, 127, Prabhat Colony Road No. 2, Santacruz (East), Mumbai-400 055, India (for 2018, 2019 and 2020)

Mr Marcos de Resende, SGAS Quadra 603, N. 20, CEP 70200-630, Brasilia (DF), Brazil (for 2018, 2019 and 2020)

Prof. C. A. Shinde, The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai 600 020, India (for 2018, 2019 and 2020)

MINUTES

Theosophical Society General Council Meetings on 30 December 2019 (9.30 am to 5 pm) in Annie Besant Hall at Varanasi

PRESENT

Mr Tim Boyd	*President, and proxy from USA*
Dr Deepa Padhi	*Vice-President*
Ms Marja Artamaa	*Secretary*
Ms Nancy Secrest	*Treasurer*
Mrs Patrizia Moschin Calvi	*Additional Member*
Mr Vinayak Pandya	*Additional Member*
Mr Marcos de Resende	*Additional Member*
Prof. C. A. Shinde	*Additional Member*
Ms Trān-Thi-Kim-Diễu	*Additional Member, and proxy from France and Portugal*
Mr Narendra Shah	*General Secretary, Africa E&C, and proxy from Africa South*
Mr Esteban Langlois	*General Secretary, Argentina*
Mrs Linda Oliveira	*General Secretary, Australia*
Mrs Sabine van Osta	*General Secretary, Belgium, and proxy from Els Rijneker*
Mrs Jenny Baker	*General Secretary, England*
Mrs Manuela Kaulich	*General Secretary, Germany*
Mr Alexandros Bousoulengas	*General Secretary, Greece*
Mr Pradeep Gohil	*General Secretary, India*
Mr Antonio Girardi	*General Secretary, Italy*
Mr Wim Leys	*General Secretary, the Netherlands*
Mr John Vorstermans	*General Secretary, New Zealand*
Mr Charlton Romero	*General Secretary, the Philippines*
Mrs Birgitta Skarbo	*General Secretary, Sweden*
Mrs Svitlana Gavrilenko	*General Secretary, Ukraine*

Present as Observers :

Mr Gerard Brennan, *Australia, President of Indo-Pacific Federation*
Mrs Isis Resende, *Brazil, President, Inter-American Theosophical Federation*
Ms Krista Umbjarv, *France, Secretary, European Federation*
Mr Douglas Keene, *Board Member of TS America*

The President welcomed those present.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2019 at ITC Naarden, the Netherlands, having been circulated, were approved as read.

2. Matters arising out of the Minutes

None.

3. Report on the Non-English Publications Fund

The Secretary reported that on 30 September 2019 the balance of the NEPF account held by the Theosophical Investment Trust in America was $83,976.

Grants were given to Greece with $7030 for the following books in Greek language.
1) The Key to Theosophy by H. P. Blavatsky, 282 pages, 500 copies,
2) Secret Doctrine III – Occultism, 426 pages, 500 copies.

4. Report on the International Funds

The Secretary reported the status of International Funds as of 30 September 2019:

International Funds in USA

a. ABC Fund	
Theosophical Investment Trust	$1,532,499
ABC short term	$40,954
b. NEPF – Non-English Publication Fund	$83,976
c. Adyar Renovation Fund	$3,821

International Funds in Australia

a. ABC Fund (including Endowment Fund):	A$804,358
b. Adyar Security Fund:	A$114,195

5. Report by the President on the Headquarters

– Renovation of Blavatsky Bungalow was completed and inauguration took place on 1 January 2019.

– The transfer of the Archives to the southwest section of the Adyar Library building has been completed in early December 2019. It is named 'Surendra Narayan Archives'. Surendra Narayan served in various positions at Adyar, Vice-President, Treasurer, and General Manager. He also wrote articles, books, and gave talks. His family gave a significant donation after Surendra Narayan's death and by mutual agreement his name was added to the Archives.

– The lawn in front of the Headquarters building is being transformed to a garden area with flowering plants throughout the year, some sculptures, and a walking path

inside the area. This is done with a donation of a member whose wife passed and was a lover of gardening.

– The Adyar Theosophical Academy (ATA) was opened in June 2019 as a theosophical school and it is going well. Pre-school, 1st, and 2nd grades started with 23 children and by December there were 48 students. ATA functions in the old TPH building which was renovated. The model for the school is the Golden Link Schools in the Philippines. ATA is part of Theosophical Education Society (TES). Donations for ATA can be given to TS for construction works. Foreign donations cannot be given directly to TES until the School has a Government authorization to receive foreign funds (FCRA) — a process that takes about five years.

– The Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary (BMAD) continues its success story with its director, Mr Shravan Krishnan. It has become a well-known resource in Chennai.

6. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019

The Treasurer presented the Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019. They were approved with gratitude for the comprehensive presentation of the accounts.

7. The Budget for the year ending 31 March 2021

The Treasurer presented the Budget.

Narendra Shah suggested thinking of merging some magazines, like *Adyar Newsletter*, *The Theosophist* and *Wake Up India*, to decrease expenses of postage.

Charlton Romero asked if the Adyar Security can be outsourced. This has been considered in the past and was found to be too expensive.

The suggestion at the previous GC meeting about sending *The Theosophist* for distribution by the TS in their country has not progressed.

The Budget for the year ending 31 March 2021 was considered and approved unanimously.

8. Appointment of Auditors for the year ending 31 March 2021

M/s Srihari & Co. were unanimously re-appointed as Auditors for the year ending 31 March 2021 on the same terms as before.

9. Appointment of Executive Committee (EC)

The President presented his suggestions for the Executive Committee members for 2020.

The following were appointed as Executive Committee members for 2020:

Mr Tim Boyd	President (ex-officio)
Dr Deepa Padhi	Vice-President (ex-officio)
Ms Nancy Secrest	Treasurer (ex-officio)
Ms Marja Artamaa	Secretary (ex-officio)
Mrs Jenny Baker	General Council Member
Mr Pradeep Gohil	General Council Member
Prof. C. A. Shinde	General Council Member
Mr Jaikumar Kannan	Member
Mr S. Harihara Raghavan	Member
Mr A. L. Somayaji	Member

10. Renovation Projects

Renovation of Leadbeater Chambers (LBC) started in May 2019 and is going on well. Due to the fact that LBC could not be available for the 144th Convention, Pradeep Gohil suggested to the Board of the Indian Section to have the 144th International Convention at Varanasi, which they approved. So this year's meeting takes place at Varanasi.

The foundation stone for LBC was laid by Annie Besant in 1910. Being such an old building several challenges came along: beams with rusted metal reinforcement had to be replaced or filled by injecting concrete grout, large rooms are divided with double wall and door to two rooms, each having separate bathrooms, plumbing and electrical work has started, the roof needed substantial work, solar panels will be installed for providing electricity and warm shower water. It is anticipated that LBC will be in use by September 2020.

11. Damodar Gardens

The President invited Mr Jaikumar Kannan, the General Manager at Adyar, to attend the meeting as he has been involved in all aspects of these negotiations.

Damodar Gardens will be used only for educational purposes. The negotiations with the chosen candidate has faced some details which need continued negotiations: the details of their contract included income streams like adding a sports academy, and the area which they plan to use for the first 5 years is half from the original offer at a rent of half (Rs. 4.25 million per month). Rent of Rs. 9.3 million per month would begin upon assuming the remaining half of the land in 5 years. The total security deposit will be Rs. 150 million, ie. Rs. 15 crores, plus an additional bank guarantee of Rs. 90 million.

After the GC meeting at Naarden in July 2019 three income tax experts have given their opinions with the result that TS's existing tax status will not be affected by the school lease.

GC endorsed continuing the negotiations to ensure the remaining details and move forward with this offer.

It was also noted that if the contract is not signed before the end of January, then we should look at other offers.

12. Any Other Business

None.

13. Discussion on work around the world

General Secretaries reported the main points from their country. Many of these will be heard at the President's address in the opening of the Convention on 31 December. Only some notes here:

- Brazil had their centenary in November 2019.
- Greece hosted the European School of Theosophy in Athens. The History Conference took place in Greece. The General Secretary thanked for the NEPF grants.

14. Closing of the meeting

GC Planning Days are scheduled from 20 to 23 June 2020 to be held at the ITC Naarden, the Netherlands. During those days will take place the GC decision-making meeting. Arrival day is 19 June and departure day is 24 June.

The President appreciated and thanked everyone for the good and harmonious meeting.

The meeting was closed at 5 pm.

Marja Artamaa
International Secretary,
Adyar, Chennai 600 020